THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

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THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

THE EFFECTS OF THE FAIRS ON OUR FUNDS.

It will surprise the country, no doubt, but it is nevertheless strictly true, that however great the credit done by the Sanitary Fairs to the charity and patriotism of the people, they have thus far resulted in loss rather than in gain to the Sanitary Commission. So far from assuring its future, they have placed it in some peril. Instead of filling the treasury to overflowing, as many people imagine, they bid fair at this moment to be instrumental in bringing our funds down, during the coming summer, to a lower point than they have ever reached before.

This is in a great measure due to the exaggerated estimate of their returns, which the public has formed. The Fairs have been attended, and naturally so, with a great deal of enthusiasm, and have been got up and conducted by great exertions on the part both of managers and contributors. They have been, perhaps, the most remarkable exhibitions of benevolence ever witnessed, and have produced a profound impression on the public mind, and they have brought us in a large sum of money. We have received from all of them, so far, $429,000; we expect to receive from the New York Fair over $1,000,000—in all, about $1,400,000. Now this, *in addition* to what we have been receiving hitherto, would have not only placed our existing operations on a firm basis during the coming year, but would have enabled us to extend them considerably, which there is great need of our doing. Our receipts in supplies last year amounted to $2,000,000; at the rate at which they have been coming in during the last four months, they will not

this year, amount to more than $1,000,000; in other words, they have fallen off exactly one-half. This leaves the value of our receipts, including those derived from the Fairs, nominally, what it was in 1863, but in reality much lower. The million dollars worth of supplies which we received last year, we have this year to purchase ourselves, at prices which are certainly twenty-five per cent. higher than they were twelve months ago, so that instead of being so rich that we do not know what to do with our money, we are suffering from the Fairs a deduction from our previous income of at least $250,000.

This is a result we need hardly say, which was not foreseen when the Fairs were started. If the public now cease to support us as before, it would have been vastly better for the soldiers that not one of them had ever been held. And unless the people resume their contributions of supplies, and leave us the proceeds of the Fairs as a clear addition to our income, we shall have to curtail our operations instead of extending them.

There is a good deal of pains taken in many quarters by persons who have never given the matter five minutes' examination, to spread this misapprehension as to the extent of our resources. It is constantly stated in public and private, that we have more money than we need, and that not only ought there be no more contributions made to us, but a portion of those which we have actually received ought to be devoted to the establishment of an asylum for invalid soldiers. There is nothing that we desire more than to be able to provide an institution of this kind. The subject has been long under consideration, and we are ready to take up work the moment we find we have something to spare after meeting the necessities of the battle-field. But we doubt if anybody will assert that the man who is lying mangled on the field, or in the hospital, has not the first and strongest claim on our assistance. As long as battles are occurring or likely to occur, such as the recent ones in Virginia, lasting twice as long and disabling twice as many men as anybody expected, and leaving miles of country covered with dead and dying, we certainly cannot take upon ourselves, and the public will not expect us to do so, to withhold from one sick or wounded man, on any pretence whatever, any assistance which he needs and which it is in our power to render. Our first duty is to assist in curing him of his wound, or his fever; our next, to assist in taking care of him afterwards. At present, we are only equal to the discharge of one of them; it remains with the public to say whether we are to discharge both.

We do not doubt that much of the falling off in the contributions of goods, is due to the exhaustion of household stores and the enormous rise in the price of nearly every article of general consumption. To the mass of people throughout the country it is undoubtedly harder to give now than it was two years ago. All we can say on this point is, that an increase of sacrifice and privation is the inevitable consequence of the prolongation of the war. The longer it lasts, the more we must all suffer, the citizen at home as well as the soldier in the field. We shall have every week a greater number of wounded and disabled men on our hands, whom it is our duty to take care of, and it is a duty which we cannot and ought not to shirk. It, no doubt, every day costs more to do it, but it is none the less sacred and imperative for all that. To this, people must make up their minds. We as well as the army in the field, have enlisted for the war, be it long or short.

We are glad to say the indications now are that it will be very short. There is every reason to believe that the coming summer will put an end to all fighting on a great scale. If the military operations continue as they have begun, it is all but certain that we shall see them reduced by next November to mere police duty against guerrillas, leaving the Medical Department abundantly able to meet all demands on it, whether ordinary or extraordinary. During the interval between now and then, however, the Sanitary Commission will need, and earnestly requests from the public the same amount and the *same kind* of support which it has hitherto received. In other words, the Fairs have not rendered the regular collection and transmission of clothing, vegetables, stimulants, delicacies, linen, lint, and, in fact,

of every article that sick or wounded men can need, one whit less necessary than ever.

The General Secretary of the Sanitary Commission has addressed the following letter to the Boston *Journal*, in correction of some recent statements of that paper; giving also an interesting account of the general results of the fairs lately held for the benefit of the Sanitary Commission:

U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, 823 B'WAY,
NEW YORK, *April* 29, 1864.

To the Editor of the Boston Journal:

In the *Journal* of the 27th inst. is an article, headed "The Sanitary and Christian Commissions," in which you remark, after a well-deserved commendation of the Christian Commission and its peculiar work, that the "Sanitary Commission has now more funds than it can judiciously spend, if the war continues a year longer; that its storehouses are filled with goods, and its treasury is overflowing." This statement is very erroneous, and of a character to injure the cause of the United States Sanitary Commission. The storehouses of the Commission are not "filled with goods." The series of fairs has arrested the flow of sanitary stores to such an extent, that the receipts at the storehouses of the Commission have for some months past been at least *fifty per cent. less* than for a corresponding period of 1863. Previously to the series of fairs lately held, the Sanitary Commission received about six dollars' worth of stores to every dollar in money, and could barely meet the urgent demands for supplies in the field and hospitals, by economizing its expenditures, and by very large purchases of such articles as condensed milk, condensed coffee, stimulants, anti-scorbutics, bed clothing and hospital clothing.

The Sanitary Commission has not received into its treasury all the funds raised by the fairs; more than half has gone into the treasuries of branch associations, and been expended in the purchase of supplementary stores. If the Sanitary Commission had received all the money raised by the various fairs, it still would be straitened in its means by the great falling off in the supply of supplementary stores. As the flow of supplies into the storehouses has fallen off more than fifty per cent., while the demands upon the Commission have everywhere increased, you can readily understand that the necessity of purchasing out of the funds of the Commission, at the present high prices of every thing, not only prevents any thing like an "overflowing" treasury, but threatens a rapid exhaustion. The Sanitary Commission has now existed nearly three years, and attained a large measure of the confidence of the public and of the national forces. Its operations reach every column of the army, and meet a corresponding dependence on the part of the soldiers. If the people are persuaded that the Sanitary Commission has grown rich, and therefore in need of nothing, in less than two months the storehouses of the Commission will be empty and its treasury exhausted, in the vain attempt to eke out the funds raised by the fairs in the purchase of the supplies of flannel underclothing, dried fruits, blankets, stimulants, &c., &c.

The people all over the country must be stimulated to continue their contributions of stores, or else the victims of the fearful campaigns now pending will fail to receive the full measure of succor and comfort that they have heretofore received from the homes of the land, through the agency of the United States Sanitary Commission. Let the Christian Commission be sustained in its glorious work, but let it not be by any diversion of either stores or money for such a purpose from the channels of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. FOSTER JENKINS,
Gen. Sec. of the U. S. Sanitary Com'n.

THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN PREVENTING DISEASE.

As the sickly season in the regions occupied by our armies is again approaching, and large numbers of raw troops are going into camp, we deem it well to call attention to the preventive department of our work—that of "inspection," which, in the excitement caused by the sufferings of those who have fallen in action, is apt to be overlooked, and yet the gaps made in our ranks by disease are far greater than those caused by even bullets or bayonets.

A large portion of the national army is in a section of country notorious for the production of malaria, an enemy more insidious and more dangerous than all the physical forces that the rebels can bring to bear against the loyal troops. The records of the human race are filled with instances which prove the truth of which we speak. The rapid and overwhelming disaster to the forces of Sennacharib is familiar to readers of history, but it was scarcely more rapid or more crushing than the malarious destruction of the French army in 1528, which, while preparing to besiege the forts pro-

tecting Baiæ, was almost totally destroyed by disease. Of 28,000, but 4,000 remained alive, and they were helpless.

In Wellington's Peninsular Campaigns, from January, 1811, to 1814, the battle of Albuera, (one of the most desperate and bloody of the Peninsular War,) Salamanca, Vittoria, the Pyrenees, Nivelle, Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse, were fought, and Badajos, Ciudad Rodrigo and San Sebastian were stormed, besides many skirmishes not included in the list of battles, the entire loss in battles was 2,550, while that from sickness was 7,257.

The average annual loss of the whole British Army during the Peninsular War was one hundred and sixty-five men out of every thousand. Of these, one hundred and thirteen died by disease or accident.

From 1803 to 1812, the average annual death-rate of the whole British Army "abroad" was 80 per 1,000—71 by disease, and 9 by wounds in action. In the war with Burmah, the loss by military forces was thirty-five per thousand, and from sickness the loss was four hundred and fifty per thousand.

In July, Aug. and Sept., 1854, the British Army in the Crimea lost at the rate of two hundred and ninety-three men out of every thousand per annum. Ninety-six per cent. of this loss was from disease. During the next three months, October, November and December, 1854, their loss was at the annual rate of five hundred and eleven out of every thousand—seven-eighths of which loss was by disease. In January, 1855, it was at the rate of 1,174 per 1,000 per annum—97 per cent. of this loss being due to disease. During the first three months of that year it was at the annual rate of 912 per 1,000—and ninety-eight per cent. of the loss was due to disease.

While the armies were encamped in the valley of Varna, "in the midst of large shallow lakes, surrounded by level, spongy lands, indented with little hollows, dried and cracked by the recession and evaporation of the winter floods—low brushwood, rank in vegetation, bounding uplands, a deficiency of potable water, with a high temperature, we have all the elements of a devastating sickness. In the high temperature of the day, heavy masses of steam spread themselves over the camps, and at night heavy, chilling dews invaded every part of the camp, and carried poison to every sleeper. The tents were thin and permeable, the rations execrable, and no protecting care was exercised." A medical philosopher, with these facts before him, knows the result already. The French and Turks suffered terribly. Macleod says the hospitals recalled the horrors of Boccaccio. Half of the army of Espinasse, in the Dobrutcha, disappeared as by a whirlwind, and the panic among the survivors was beyond description. Cholera, intermittent and remittent fever, typhus, and dysentery took possession of the camps—the encampment was broken up, and the army fled precipitately from the scene of the disaster—but the enemy retained possession of the men, and the horrors of Varna continued to follow them. The survivors continued for years to feel the dreadful visitation of the Dobrutcha, and those who seemed to have passed unscathed, showed in subsequent wounds that the seeds of the poison of the camp had been merely latent. Among the English, there were in three months 897 deaths from cholera, and 75 from dysentery and diarrhea. Dr. Aitkin says: "My estimates lead with still greater force to the conclusion, that the amount of sickness at Varna was greater than that of the French army in Spain, and nearly as great as the army of Portugal while engaged in very active campaigns, and this, too, though not a soldier on Lord Raglan's army had fired a shot." From October, 1854, to April, 1855, the army of 23,775 men, lost 9,248 by sickness, and 608 by wounds. In the last six months of the Crimean campaign, including the final assaults which carried Sebastopol, the French had 21,957 men wounded, and 101,128 cases of sickness.

Now, the great mass of this sickness was avoidable, and should have been prevented. In the Italian campaigns, Napoleon guarded his troops against the disasters connected with localities. He never encamped his armies in the neighborhood of malarial sources when he could avoid it, and when compelled to make such an encampment, he always built fires at night between his army and the sources of this poison. We earnestly wish that we could engrave in

vivid letters upon the memories of those who have the management of the American camps the following truths of Sir Baltingall. He says: "The experience of all ages has proved that the neighborhood of marshes, grounds subject to overflow by large rivers, surrounded by foul stagnating water, or low places covered with wood, are most injurious to health, and the noxious effluvia arising from these situations are augmented in proportion to the heat of the climate or the season of the year."

In all perils of this kind, the camp should be pitched so that the evening wind will blow the marsh air in an opposite direction from the camp. When this cannot be done, fires should be burned all night between the sources of the malaria and the camp. Malaria never acts in daytime nor at night upon a wakeful person in motion. Sentinels may walk in safety where a sleeping army may be almost destroyed. No garbage should be permitted about camps. Let it be buried or thrown into running water. It should not be burned in camp.

As the sun climbs the ecliptic, he scatters the seeds of sickness northward. Rio Janeiro, Pernambuco, Cuba, Tampico, Vera Cruz, New Orleans, Vicksburg, and places farther northward take their turn. The cause of pestilence is now incubating in the regions held by our armies. They can and must be protected from the pestilence that walks in darkness only to those who wilfully shut their eyes. The men must be well fed, for there is a great truth in the aphorism, "that the first condition of health is the good condition of the stomach." M. Worms, in his work, "*Des Maladies de la Province de Constantine*," says: "Those who are well nourished pass through or even sojourn with impunity in localities where others meet with disease and death. In the army, where soldiers and officers are exposed to the same morbid influences, the average deaths are one in twelve of the former to one in fifty-four of the latter. The officers, by the proper nourishment and the use of fermented liquors, sustain the vital energy, which has a tendency to fall into inertia, and so escape the effects of malaria, which makes ravages around them. The Commissioners of Inquiry of the British Army of Sierra Leone found that the main cause of the fearful mortality from diseases of the digestive organs there, two-fifths of the cases having proved fatal, arose from the use of salt rations, and that by the substitution of a fresh meat diet, the mortality from these diseases was reduced to one-tenth of its former amount. Haliday's testimony is to the same effect."

Up to May 18, 1862, our armies had lost at the rate of fifty-three per thousand per annum, and only forty-four per cent. of that loss was by disease and accident.

The last report of the Secretary of War states the number of patients in General Hospital, June 30, 1863, as 9.1 per cent., and in Field Hospital 4.4 per cent. of the whole national forces; and that of this aggregate of 13.5 per cent., 11 were cases of sickness, and 2.5 of wounds or other casualties. This is a most gratifying statement, especially when contrasted with the sickness rates of foreign armies in the field, and of our own during the Mexican war.

In estimating the value of these figures, it must be remembered that the conditions under which our soldiers serve have been generally unfavorable. Their field of operations includes, as we have said, large districts quite as insalubrious as any part of Spain, Portugal, or the Crimea. There has at all times (and especially during the first year of the war) been among them a large proportion of half-disciplined recruits and of inexperienced officers, while the soldiers of Great Britain, in the Peninsula and the Crimea, were regulars under high discipline, and commanded by professional officers. The Commissariat and the Medical Department of the British Army were parts of a system long established and matured. In May, 1862, ours were newly organized, (for the purposes of this war,) and not yet in perfect working order. The Peninsular and Crimean Armies had, therefore, material advantages over our own. Yet we have lost far fewer men by disease. Even on Morris Island, and in the pestilential swamps of the lower Mississippi, our loss by disease has been smaller than that of any army about which we have authentic information. For this great fact—equivalent to the addition of hundreds of millions to our national resources—the nation can never be sufficiently thankful. No human agency

could have insured it. Though the average intelligence and culture of our common soldiers are beyond those of any army ever yet put into the field, and though the medical staff and the Sanitary Commission have worked diligently in their respective spheres, a blessing so great, exceptional, and unhoped for can be attributed to none but the Highest cause.

And yet the Commission claims credit for having contributed in some degree to this happy result, by its system of sanitary inspection of camps, posts and hospitals.

This was the chief object contemplated by the Commission when it was created by Government. As has already been stated, our armies were, during the summer of 1861, in serious danger of destruction by epidemic disease. Modern sanitary science was hardly recognized in the ancient regulations of the medical bureau. Its officers could not be expected to go beyond the strict line of official duty when that duty was more than quadrupled. The first business of the Commission, therefore, was to awaken general attention to the sanitary interests of the army, and to do what it could to improve the sanitary condition of camps, quarters, hospitals, and men.

It sent out medical inspectors forthwith to warn inexperienced officers of the peril to which filth, bad ventilation and bad food exposed their men and themselves. It brought to bear upon Government the influence of the medical profession throughout the country, effected the extension and invigoration of the medical bureau, and secured the express recognition of the prevention of disease, no less than its cure, as among the functions of the medical staff. Government now employs its own sanitary inspectors, and does a certain portion of the preventive work which the Commission did during the first year of its existence. But the Commission still keeps up an inspectorial corps, auxiliary to that of Government, for the latter is numerically unequal to its great work, and there are special causes beside that have thus far interfered with its efficiency.

Each inspector on visiting a camp or post puts himself, in the first place, in communication with its military authorities, and asks their co-operation in his work. This being secured, he proceeds to investigate the condition of the men in every particular that bears on their liability to disease, and the sufficiency of the remedial agencies within their reach. He inquires into the quality of their water-supply, food, cooking and clothing—the ventilation and the cleanliness of their camp or quarters—the position of their latrines—the provision for the removal and destruction of refuse and offal—the equipment of their field or post hospital—their ambulance service—the competency of their medical officers—the salubrity or insalubrity of their camp-site or post—the sufficiency of their bedding and blankets, the character of the diseases that have prevailed among them, and the precautions thus indicated. On these points he advises the medical and military authorities of the corps as a sanitary expert. His inspection generally discloses something that can be done to promote the health of the command. He finds, for instance, that there are tendencies to malarious disease that call for quinine as a prophylactic, or tendencies to scurvy, that require supplies of fresh vegetables, or that there is a deficiency of stimulants, bedding, articles of hospital diet, or disinfecting material. If the want, whatever it is, can be promptly supplied through the regular official channels, he sees that this is done—but if it cannot, or if (as is often the case) something is required which Government does not undertake to supply, he calls on the relief department of the Commission, which supplies it according to its ability. If the officer who should obtain it be inexperienced in requisitions and supply tables, the inspector is able to assist him. If the defect arise from corruption or incapacity, he reports the fact. It sometimes happens that the health of a camp is endangered by want, not of supplies, but of some work for which authority cannot at once be obtained. In this case money is appropriated by the standing committee, or, in case of emergency, by the associate secretary, on the inspector's report. The Commission has done much work of this class. It has improved the ventilation of hospitals, dug wells to improve the water-supply of camps, built temporary hospitals and quarters, to

replace unwholesome and dangerous buildings, furnished and fitted up hospital transports, and converted ordinary railroad cars into railroad ambulances, with cooking apparatus and store-rooms, and litters hung on springs, in which thousands of men with fractured limbs have traveled thousands of miles without suffering or injury.

The results of every inspection are noted on blanks provided for the purpose, and are severally reported. Each report covers about two hundred distinct points affecting the sanitary condition and wants of the force inspected. More than 2,000 of these reports have been accumulated. They are digested and tabulated, as received, by a competent actuary. It is believed that the body of military and medical statistics thus collected is among the largest and most valuable in existence. It can hardly fail to furnish conclusions of the utmost importance to sanitary science.

The Commission employs other agencies also for the prevention of disease. It urges measures of sanitary reform on the attention of Government. It furnished material for the vaccination of thousands of men at a time, now happily past, when the medical bureau was unable to supply the tenth part of what was needed, and issued what it had only after a fortnight's delay. It has thus stayed the ravages of small-pox in regiments crowded on board transports, after that disease had actually begun to spread among their men.

It has done much beside to protect our soldiers against this peril. During the first year of the war, for instance, all cases of "eruptive disease" in one of our most important military departments were consigned indiscriminately to a single hospital, from which men were "discharged cured" of mumps or measles, and rejoined their regiments to sicken and die of small-pox contracted in this "hospital," so called, and to infect and kill their comrades. It was through the persevering remonstrance and protest of the Commission that this murderous abuse was at last corrected.

The Commission has also circulated throughout the army, and especially among the medical staff, many hundred thousand copies of its medical documents. This series now numbers eighteen publications, each devoted to some special point of prevention or cure. Some of them are addressed to the individual soldier, but the great majority are for the use of the medical staff, and relate to the prevention or treatment of the diseases to which camps are specially exposed, and to sundry operations of military surgery with which it cannot be expected that surgeons recently appointed from civil life should be generally familiar. These monographs have been prepared at the request of the Commission, by some of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the country. Embodying, in a condensed form, the latest results of science, they have been of great use to our army surgeons, who often encounter cases for which their previous practice has not specially prepared them, and who have neither medical libraries nor opportunities for consultation.

The Commission institutes special inspections, also, from time to time, outside of its general inspection system. It employs medical agents to look into the condition of such camps or hospitals as seem to require special attention, and to ascertain and report the wants of our armies during or immediately after a trying campaign. Within the past year it has made a thorough inspection of all general military hospitals, east and west, employing for this purpose medical practitioners of the highest professional standing. Their recommendations of improvement in our hospital system and its administration have been submitted to the proper authorities.

The relief agents of the Commission are not expressly charged with the office of sanitary inspection, but their reports and journals, sent in at short intervals, help to keep the Commission informed of the condition of the army, and of the measures required to maintain it in health, at every point from Annapolis to New Orleans.

As has been already stated, it is, from the nature of the case, impossible accurately to estimate how many men have been saved from death or disease, and how much efficiency has been economized for the country by this preventive service, for though the results of the treatment of disease can be more or less accurately recorded, the result of measures for its prevention cannot be

stated with any kind of certainty. The only attainable data are the percentage of disease among men to whom such preventive measures have been applied, and among those to whom they have not. Though inferences from a comparison of the two are not absolutely to be relied on, (because we can never be quite sure that the conditions of any two cases have been precisely the same,) a comparison of the mortality rates of our army with those of the British armies in the Crimea and during the Peninsular war, which we have given above, will, nevertheless, throw some light on the question.

WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE FOR GRANT'S ARMY.

Some account will be found in Dr. Steiner's report on another page, of the preparations made by the Field Relief Corps of the Commission for the movement in Virginia. What we have done, and are doing for the wounded of Grant's glorious "eight days" may be gleaned from the following extracts from our reports. Mr. Knapp writes from Washington, May 11:

"You were informed by Dr. Caldwell yesterday that, at 12 M., we sent to Belle Plain the Mary F. Rapley, steam transport, with sixty relief agents and seventy-five or eighty tons of assorted sanitary stores, the vessel having in tow a barge with twenty-one horses and five strong wagons. We have loaded to-day another barge with sixteen horses and four purchased wagons, carrying the necessary forage, and to-night, or at daylight in the morning, she will go down, towed by the tugboat Gov. Curtin, also chartered for the purpose. With these nine teams the supplies can go on to Fredericksburg rapidly, where there is need of them, I can assure you, although Government is making every exertion to supply the needs, and is constantly showing increased ability to put in practice what were last year regarded as only experiments. Thus the Government has prepared, and admirably, two large hospital transports, and has also arranged for feeding the sick on board the other boats which are not regular floating hospitals. A relief agent of the Sanitary Commission came up last night with a large party of the wounded. They arrived here at 2 A. M., having left Fredericksburg yesterday. He says our relief agents who accompanied the army with their wagons and stores, rendered invaluable service, of which he is writing now a brief report, which I will send you to-morrow. He returns on our tugboat leaving to-night or in the morning.

"To-morrow we hope, at Baltimore, to hire a boat with which to carry another load of supplies up the James River, where there is hard fighting, and likely to be more of it, and where, doubtless, the needs must be great. That boat, if obtained, will take up a quantity of the saurkraut, vegetables, pickles, &c., ordered for Norfolk. This will save Dr. McDonald the necessity of leaving his post with his storeboat. Twenty-five relief agents either have started, or will start, for Belle Plain this afternoon. We shall send some more to-morrow. Our supplies are thus far abundant."

Dr. Steiner reports:

Belle Plain, Va., May 11.—We steamed down the Potomac without any occurrence of interest until we passed a transport filled with troops, bound for Washington, who gave the flag of the Commission three hearty cheers. Soon after dark we reached our fleet of hospital steamboats and barges, at the wharf of Belle Plain. Here I went ashore with Mr. Fay, and saw Medical Inspector Wilson, to whom I introduced myself. He said: 'You see there is enough work to be done here; I need not point it out; look around and you will find it.' No sooner said than done. Fay's Auxiliary Relief Corps immediately took hold. It is divided into five divisions. That section under charge of Le Barrons supplied the men on the barges with hot coffee, beef tea and crackers, while the squad under charge of Mr. Denniston pitched a large tent, and made arrangements for getting things to rights. Thus they worked until more than nine hundred wounded men were sent off in one boat, and others prepared to go. These labors have been of the most heartrending description, though the wounded were handled with all possible tenderness.

We have sent off four wagons to Fredericksburg loaded with sanitary supplies. The necessities of this post will require me to remain here to-day. Dr. Cuyler will be in charge, and is here already; and Wilson will go to Fredericksburg, whither Douglas has already gone. Pope goes with the train as storekeeper, and Fay will secure a storehouse for him in some part of the town. On the whole, the wants of the wounded at this point are so great that help is as imperatively demanded, as it must be freely given. The army may have started with splendid supplies, but such an unprecedented series of engagements have never, heretofore, been known, and hence, any amount of regular supplies would be too small to meet the emergency. I have heard that our Field Relief Corps was working in the neighborhood of

Fredericksburg, although a report reaches me that Wilcox—one of the Second Corps Relief Agents was captured with his wagon while coming in from the front. I have sent messages in all directions for the agents to report here, if possible, with their wagons, so as to secure all the necessary supplies for our wounded in the hospitals. I presume to-morrow they will be here.

From Mr. Wilcox, in charge of the Field Relief Agency, with the Third and Fourth Divisions, Second Corps, we get the following:

Wednesday, May 4.—Accompanying the ambulance trains, under charge of Lieut. Shook, of the Third Division, Second Army Corps, (a part of which had moved the evening previous,) we took up the line of march from our camp near Brandy Station, proceeding to Ely's Ford, which point we reached at dark, crossed the run, and bivouacked near the river.

Thursday, May 5.—We continued our march toward Chancellorsville, which point we reached at 9 o'clock A. M., and bivouacked. After an hour's rest, the march was resumed in the direction of Todd's Tavern. Up to 3 P. M., nothing indicating the whereabouts of the enemy was apparent at the point of the column occupied by us; but on arriving at a point within about three miles north of Todd's Tavern, skirmishing with musketry, and occasional artillery shots began to be heard. At this time an order was received from Gen. Hancock to change route. We then retraced our steps, and countermarched about two miles, to a point where a road bearing to the right of Todd's Tavern was met, which we took. Marching in this direction several miles, we came upon the rear of our lines, where the wounded were being brought in; and a point was here designated as the hospital of the Third and Fourth Divisions, where I located my wagons and pitched my hospital tent.

It was now quite dark, and the fighting had been conducted with vigor in our front all day, continuing until about 9 o'clock. The wounded were already numerously strewn through the grove where our hospitals were located, and the demands for our sanitary stores became frequent and large. The sanitary supplies were acknowledged by the surgeons in charge as most timely and prompt. Underclothing and blankets were the first articles in demand—the need for the latter being particularly urgent.

It may here be properly remarked, that throughout the line of march from camp at Brandy Station, a great waste of blankets could be noticed. The day was warm, and the soldiers wished to enter the battle unincumbered. The roads were strewn with blankets to an extent which warrants the belief that enough were thrown away to have amply provided for every man who was wounded; whereas, owing to this waste, hundreds were obliged to lie in the night air almost naked, with wounds exposed.

Friday, May 6.—The battle raged to-day in our front with terrific fury, during which our forces were obliged to relinquish three successive advantages gained on the previous day. The business of dispensing sanitary supplies was carried on briskly all day, requiring every effort to fill the demands. The wagons attached to the First and Second Divisions of our army corps, under Mr. Holbrook, were located at a short distance from my own, though the demands upon them not being so great as on mine. At the close of this day my supplies of clothing, stimulants, &c., &c., were almost entirely exhausted.

Saturday, May 7.—Little fighting took place to-day, but the wounded of yesterday still poured into our hospitals. My stock of clothing and other articles was in a measure renewed by supplies from Mr. Holbrook's wagons. Mr. Johnson and Captain Harris spent a portion of the day at my depot, and the work progressed well.

Sunday, May 8.—Broke camp with division hospital supply train, and went to Chancellorsville, and subsequently to Fredericksburg, (for fresh supplies,) where we bivouacked. On the route from Chancellorsville to Fredericksburg, we accompanied a train of ambulances and army wagons, loaded with wounded soldiers and officers. The sufferings of these men cannot in any degree be realized. The road—an old plank road—was in a wretched condition, and the groans and shrieks of the sufferers were truly heart-rending. On this march the presence of the sanitary supplies were acknowledged by the poor men to be a godsend, inasmuch as ours were the *only* supplies in a train of two hundred wagons and ambulances. Crackers and stimulants, judiciously dispensed, gave relief to many suffering soldiers during that tedious march of twelve hours. We arrived at Fredericksburg at midnight, the head of the column having reached that place at noon on Sunday, and the work of transferring the wounded to the houses was commenced. A tedious and painful work was this. A former acquaintance with the town enabled me to point out the most suitable houses for hospital purposes, and among these the Planters' Hotel, containing a large number of rooms furnished with beds, &c. This proved a great advantage as a ready means of making many wounded comfortable.

* * * * * *

The following letters from Washington explain themselves:

MR. KNAPP:

DEAR SIR—Four boatloads of wounded men arrived during the night, viz.:

Connecticut, 1,300; Key Port, 425; Wanasett, 350; Daniel Webster, 400. Total, 2,475.

One-fourth part were severely wounded. Three hundred or more were brought ashore on stretchers. The surgeon of the Connecticut says he is deeply indebted to the Sanitary Commission for their aid and kindness. The surgeon of the Key Port says: "He does not know what he should have done had it not been for the Sanitary Commission, who furnished him with stimulants at Belle Plain for the wounded he brought up."

We gave chocolate this morning to nearly five hundred veteran soldiers of the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. They are on their way to the front.

We have distributed since last night—

5 barrels of crackers,
50 gallons of coffee,
50 gallons of chocolate,

150 gallons of lemonade,
30 gallons of milk punch.

We have fed the ambulance drivers, at the request of Mr. Tucker, Superintendent of the Ambulance Corps of Washington. Most of these drivers have been on duty, night and day, for the last four days, and I have yet to hear the first one grumble.

Mr. Stacy merits much praise for his zeal in the work of feeding and looking after the wounded men here.

Your obedient servant,
J. B. ABBOTT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Thursday, *May* 12.

Mr. Knapp again asks me to give you a short account of the condition of our work. The Rapley sailed again this afternoon, loaded with seventy or eighty tons of stores. Mr. Fairchild went with her, in charge of thirty volunteer nurses, including Miss Woolsey.

A barge, with eighteen horses and four large wagons, went down yesterday. Offers of assistance from all the departments are coming in all the time.

I enclose, by Mr. Knapp's direction, three letters, which will give you a good account of the work done at the front.

The wounded that have arrived thus far are but slightly injured, and are very well cared for on the boat.

Yours respectfully,
(Signed,) G. C. CALDWELL.

RELIEF AGENTS ASSIST DURING A RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

David S. Pope, Relief Agent, in his account of a trip to Washington with the surplus furniture, &c., of the Sanitary Station, which was broken up at Brandy, on the moving forward of the army, says:

"About six o'clock next morning, a train passed us at almost lightning speed, and then came a crash. We looked out of the car, and saw the wreck of five or six cars heaped up alongside of the track just a few feet beyond us, and soldiers crawling out from under the ruins. Mr. Marsh, Mr. Dubosq, and myself went up, and aided in removing the wounded, six or seven of whom were very seriously injured; one of them, more than likely, died before he reached Alexandria; another will have to suffer amputation of his leg, which was fearfully crushed.

"We were the fortunate instruments of alleviating their sufferings to a great extent. Although a surgeon was present, he was unable to do much, his stores and instruments having passed, his regiment being on the move. With our stimulants, mattresses, cots and blankets, we made the poor fellows comparatively comfortable, but they were probably without surgical attendance until they reached Alexandria."

HOSPITAL CLOTHING.

☞ The length of lower line of the diagram giving the pattern of flannel drawers, in No. 13, was omitted. It should have been marked 18 inches.

THE HOSPITALS AT WASHINGTON.

The quarterly report of Mr. Caldwell, one of our Hospital Visitors in Washington, contains some valuable hints for our branches of supply. He says:

SIR—During the quarter ending with this date, (March 31st,) I have made nearly three hundred visits in the General, Post and Regimental Hospitals in this Department.

In March, the two hospitals at Annapolis and one at Annapolis Junction, were added to my list, it seeming to be desirable that such important points as those should be regularly visited by some one from Washington, whence their supplies were drawn.

At no time during the quarter has the number of patients in the hospitals in the Department at Washington been large, and the proportion of quite sick, or bed fast, such as are usually most in need of the assistance furnished by the Commission, has been all the time very small; consequently, the issues to these hospitals have been small.

The two hospitals at Annapolis have been partially filled with the sick among the released prisoners, and have needed more aid than those in Washington and Alexandria; even these have twice received all the sick from the Army of the Potomac.

On my first visit to Annapolis I found one of the hospitals very much in need of delicacies, and a liberal order was made out; in the other, I was much pleased with the admirably arranged storeroom well stocked with most of the Commission supplies; and a large invoice was daily expected from Washington, of such things as were wanting.

The regiments garrisoning the defences of Washington, have received a large number of new recruits; and their sick lists have been larger in proportion; and consequently the issues to them have been larger in like proportion.

Most of the hospitals depend upon the Commission for their supply of brandy; surgeons in charge understand that they cannot get it from the Medical Purveyor. The issue of this precious article has, however, been small, and very carefully made. Cherry cordial and blackberry brandy are much esteemed wherever they have been introduced; there should be a good supply of these stimulants on hand for issue in the summer, when the complaints for which they contribute so serviceable a remedy, are most prevalent.

In all cases where brandy is called for, I endeavor to substitute wine therefor, and with various success. Some surgeons like it quite as well, while others can make but little use of it.

Dried apples, pickles and porter, have

been issued to some hospitals when the funds were low.

The pickles are always very acceptable, and their quality is very highly praised; they are usually much better than those obtained in the market or from the Commissary.

A few cases of peaches that happened to come this way, were most highly prized, being far better than any that could be bought here; they were issued only where I felt sure they would be well used.

Domestic wines are but little used. Their quality and strength are too uncertain, and they cannot be depended upon.

The Boston crackers are very much valued, and the issue of them is quite constant.

There is a constant call for white sugar; it is so fitly used in many cases in the cook room, where the low diet is prepared, for dishes that would be half spoiled by the brown sugar of the Commissary.

Lemons and dried beef are often asked for.

Of assorted dried fruits, there is always too little in store; a good cook can with these, make very good substitutes for jelly; and, considering the sad waste of this article in the course of transportation, the people at home, the Commission, and the soldier, would all be gainers, if the fruit were dried, instead of being converted into jelly. Then there would be no waste, and far less difficulty and labor in packing and transportation. Would it not be well to recommend this change to the branches?

At my suggestion, a small supply of yarn has been put in store for issue for mending socks; those issued by Government are of an inferior quality, and need much mending. Quite as necessary as yarn is cotton thread, for repairing cotton garments; the calls for it are frequent, and I should be glad to be able to give it.

Woolen underclothing has not been issued largely. The wool shirts issued by Government are often half cotton, and very rough and harsh; some men who need woolens cannot wear them.

For such cases, when the men have not the means to buy for themselves, or have families to whom they have to send their spare earnings, I allow to be given freely.

Pillow cases are often called for, and I supply but a small portion of the demand, for the reason that they are furnished to a certain extent by the Government.

But the Government supply is based upon but one pillow to a man; of those small pillows, two or three are hardly enough for common comfort. Moreover, the Government arrangement for condemning worn out hospital clothing is not prompt and sufficient; and a hospital sometimes has to wait six or nine months before it can have such clothing put aside as unfit for use; and till then, it can ask for no more to take its place.

Of towels and handkerchiefs, the issue has been constant; a great many are given to the men for their own property.

The slippers supplied by Government are, like our own, cloth or carpet ones, of very little use to a man who is about on his feet; they are soon worn out.

The attendants have to move about in their heavy shoes, and have not usually much time to spend in walking on tip-toe; the noise they cannot but make, must be an annoyance to sick men, if not positively harmful. I wish there might be a supply of good leather soled slippers on hand, to be used for that purpose only. They would not be needed in every hospital, since in some a strip of matting is put down where the attendants walk.

I am often asked why these things are not bought with the hospital fund. They cannot be to the extent that is desirable, for two reasons:

1st. Surgeons are prohibited from purchasing any thing but eatables, and a few articles of a perishable nature, with the hospital fund.

2d. At the present high rates of provisions, it requires the best of management to get for the men all that the Surgeon-General's diet-table requires, and all that the men ought to have of the staple articles of food.

Under such circumstances, a small quantity of good things placed in the hands of women nurses, or Sisters of Charity, serves to make many a meal more palatable and strengthening.

I frequently receive testimonials to the efficiency of the service of the Commission, which it would be out of place to repeat here.

Respectfully submitted,

G. C. Caldwell,
Hospital Visitor Sanitary Commission.

Mr. Stephen Barker writes us:

Having already explained my way of making acquaintance with officers and patients in hospitals, I need only say that my last month's work has in no way differed from that of previous months.

I have received more expressions of gratitude than formerly; but I attribute this entirely to the fact of having transacted all my hospital business in the *wards*, where the patients could hear the conversations between the ward master, or cook, or hospital steward and myself, concerning the wants of the hospital and the sanitary stores. Patients manifest great interest in these subjects; and when I sit down to make out my order for supplies, they cluster round as if this part of my business were one of their chief entertainments. In this way the patients seem to have realized, for the first time, where the delicacies come from which

they enjoy so much, and which they have hitherto carelessly attributed either to the kindness of private individuals, or to the agents of the Christian Commission, or to their regular medical supplies. I have been made to realize this fact, by being so often obliged to disclaim the *personal* thanks, which really belonged to the Sanitary Commission.

Lately, every visit has brought me some pleasant expression of thanks for comforts received. Sometimes by tearful silence; sometimes by a hearty outburst that the "Sanitary Commission is the greatest institution in the United States." My last was a slip of paper, tucked into the thumb of my glove, with a "God bless you," which means some thing from a "Down Easter," who wrote it.

In order to bring the benefits of the Sanitary Commission before a larger circle than hospitals afford, I have lately begun to distribute papers, magazines, and comfort bags in camps.

The supply of newspapers, in large quantities, has been furnished by contributions from Vice President Hamlin, and by Hon. Charles Sumner, Hon. Alex. H. Rice, and Hon. Oakes Ames.

Mrs. Hamlin and Mrs. O. Ames have also assisted me in the distribution of these favors.

One very pleasant scene occurred at Camp Barry, in the distribution of comfort bags at the barracks of the 9th and 11th Mass. Batteries, under Capt. Jones. By previous programme, my friend and I, with the ward master and driver, had each a box at our feet, containing a hundred bags apiece, with some papers and magazines. The men were all out (playing) kicking football. I said, "Here, boys, are some gifts for you, from Massachusetts girls," accompanying the words with a salute of bags, needlebooks, and pincushions, from all sides of the wagon, into the crowd. The men immediately took the joke, and, with a shout, rushed towards us, while we kept up the fire, and they rushed, and scrambled, and clutched at the flying gifts, like children after sugar-plums on a Thanksgiving eve. When at last the boxes were all emptied, and *one red sugar-plum* was all I had to put into the fifty outstretched hands around us, the captain appeared, and thanked us, in behalf of his men, for our visit, not only for its immediate benefits, but for affording pleasant memories, and material for letters for weeks to come. Here again I had the pleasure of disclaiming all personal thanks, and turning them over to the Sanitary Commission, where they rightfully belong. He said more pleasant things, and ended by proposing three cheers for Massachusetts ladies, which the soldiers gave with swinging hats, and prolonged into three times three for the pleasure of using their lungs once more in good old Massachusetts fashion. In my last visit to Camp Barry, I learned that most of those bags contained letters, which have been answered by the soldiers, which have also been answered by the original writers. I could distribute ten thousand bags in this way, to good advantage. I regret to say I have exhausted our supply.

Mr. Brown reports as the result of his labors for the month of March in the matter of back pay for soldiers in the hospitals of Washington and vicinity:

Whole number of cases taken during the month	96
Number of cases completed by securing pay	96
" " otherwise completed	24
Total number of completed cases	120
Number of letters written during the month	218
Amount represented by the ninety-six completed cases	$5,907.58

This is an average of nearly five months' pay for every successful case.

You will perceive that the completed cases are in excess of the number of cases taken. The present being a non-muster month, I have taken less new cases than I otherwise should, and devoted my time to a large number of complicated cases lying over from last month. The result is that we now have a less number of uncompleted cases on hand than we have had at the writing of any previous report, being now only fifty-four in number.

The work of the past month has been of a more complicated character than any previous one. Many of the hospitals in Washington have arrangements with the Pay Department for fixing up the accounts of the men, and as a consequence our services are not needed, except in such cases as are not easily traced on the regiment rolls, or which require evidence which is not on file at the Pay Department. It is the usual custom of the Paymaster General's Office to refer cases of this character to this office.

We have had quite a large number of cases the past month where the men were charged wrongfully with "desertion," and have succeeded in most instances in getting the charge removed, and in securing the men their rightful dues. One man of this class I secured *twenty months'* back pay for, after he had been to a great amount of trouble to get it through other sources, without success. Have had several cases where the men had 18 months due, all of whom were wrongfully charged with desertion.

To one unacquainted with the manner in which the accounts of the Government are kept, it seems strange that men who are serving their country for the pittance of $13.00 per month, should be compelled to wait so long for their pay.

The fact is not to be disguised that this state of affairs is often the result of the ignorance or indifference of officers, who are paid, and well paid, for attending to this

business. A short time ago a Paymaster showed me a company roll bearing sixty-seven names. Out of that sixty-seven only *four* could be paid, the other sixty-three being incorrectly mustered by the commanding officer. These men must now wait two months longer, not only for the last two months' pay due, but also for all that was previously due, and the next muster may find them in as bad condition as they now are. It frequently happens that a man is taken prisoner, and on his next subsequent rolls charged with desertion, which has the effect of stopping all pay that is due or that may become due, till the charge is removed.

Not one soldier in a thousand is acquainted with the method of removal, and consequently many innocent men suffer in their reputation, as well as lose their pay; for, according to military law, the *charge* of desertion is *prima facie* evidence that the man did desert.

The preliminary steps have been taken for extending this work to Baltimore and Philadelphia, and I would suggest that New York be included in this arrangement. There has been no way heretofore for men without description lists to get their back pay, if they have been outside of Washington. The new arrangement will be a great advantage to this class of men.

The bulk of the work will have to be done through this office. All that is required for cities outside of Washington, is some one to look up the cases at the hospitals, which is comparatively little work. Mr. Ashman, of Philadelphia, has sent us on some cases, and promises to send more soon. I went to Baltimore yesterday, to make the arrangements for starting the work in that city.

Saw Dr. Bliss, the surgeon in charge of the Camden Street Hospital; also, Rev. Mr. Bower, the chaplain. They seemed willing to do every thing in their power to co-operate in the work. I find that nearly all the men have description lists, and that they are mustered on there without any further evidence; therefore the number who will require assistance there will be smaller than here, in proportion to the number of patients.

RESULTS OF THE FAIR.

I take the liberty of sending to you for publication in your journal the following:

At a meeting of the Ladies' Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, held May 13, 1864, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That John H. Gourlie, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, be requested to place *one million dollars* in the hands of the United States Sanitary Commission.

By order of the Board.

(Signed,) CATHARINE C. HUNT.

In accordance with the above resolution, I have handed over to George T. Strong, Esq., Treasurer of the United States Sanitary Commission, the above-named sum of one million dollars. The following is a copy of his receipt for the same:

NEW YORK, *May* 17, 1864.

Received from John H. Gourlie, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Fair, one million dollars, for the benefit of the United States Sanitary Commission.

(Signed,)

GEORGE T. STRONG,

$1,000,000. *Treasurer of the Sanitary Commission.*

I take the liberty of stating, for public information, that the above-named amount is the *first instalment* of the results of the Metropolitan Fair. Its financial affairs cannot be completely closed for some time to come, as contributions known to have been made have not yet been sent into the Treasurer's Department; besides, there are other contributions, still on their way from Europe, (a cargo of coal, valued at $12,500, the generous gift of Geo. Elliott, of Liverpool,) and paintings, and works of art, still unsold, the probable value of which is $20,000.

A detailed statement of the receipts and disbursements will be made as soon as practicable.

I congratulate the public on the noble results of their generous contributions to the Metropolitan Fair.

The receipts over and above all expenses will not, I venture to say, fall far short of $1,100,000; still, all sums over one million at present can only be roughly estimated.

A committee are now engaged in examining the accounts of the Treasury Department, and I trust that their report will be satisfactory to the public.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN H. GOURLIE,

Chairman Finance Committee, Metropolitan Fair.

NEW YORK, *May* 17, 1864.

GENERAL SURVEY OF OPERATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *May 1st*, 1864.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary, U. S. San. Com.:

SIR—I submit, as Associate Secretary for the East, the following report. It embraces the time from January 1st to present date.

The monthly reports sent to you, with the frequent letters forwarded, have already furnished to you all the detail of what I

now simply present as a summary of the whole.

During these four months there has been no essential change in the *methods* adopted, the *character* of the demands, the *ability* to meet all claims, and the *working force* itself.

There has been a constant *tendency* to *enlargement*, both in the Field Relief Corps and in the Special Relief Department.

At Washington and vicinity, the long existing systematic provision for rendering aid to general and regimental hospitals has continued. There has in that section been no important movements in the field. Here, however, as elsewhere, large provision has been made to meet the demands which may arise from great battles. (Accompanying are papers of stock with Army of the Potomac, stock sent to Norfolk, stock sent to Harper's Ferry, stock in storehouse at Washington and on the way, as by invoice.)

Accompanying, also, is report of Dr. Steiner, Chief Inspector of Army of Potomac, covering the months of January, February, and March.

Thus, at Washington; at Newbern, N. C.; at Olustee, Florida; in Texas, and at Grand Ecore, Louisiana, during this same period, the Commission has had large opportunity to show its preparation to meet urgent needs, and its ability to render efficient help in emergencies.

In each instance its preparations were larger than the needs, and its help followed close upon the emergencies.

You have herewith, or previously forwarded to you, the reports from these several sections.

These reports indicate, also, efficiency and earnest zeal on the part of all the agents of the Commission employed in their respective fields; and their labors have been recognized and appreciated by the officers and military authorities, as well as by the men receiving "aid and comfort."

The amounts of supplies with the army; value of the same; issues to the depots at Washington, Newbern, Hilton Head, (from which the Florida supplies were sent,) and New Orleans, for the quarter ending April 1st, accompany this. Marked valuation, $117,683.50.

At Newbern, N. C., at the present time, preparation is made, by two additional relief agents recently sent, and a large invoice of stores, to meet the probably large demands which may soon arise there.

At Hilton Head and Beaufort, the present demand is comparatively limited, with diminished forces.

At New Orleans and beyond, the working force of the Commission has been increased by efficient men, some sent from the North, some found there; and stores are constantly forwarded by almost every steamer. The right granted to the Chief Inspector to purchase in New Orleans, when necessary to meet emergencies, (a right which he has judiciously exercised,) adds to the efficiency and real stock there of the Commission.

Homes or Lodges have followed the army in Louisiana and Texas whenever it has moved, or else been ready to meet returning men sick or discharged. These Lodges have all done a valuable work. When the army left a given region, rendering a Lodge further unnecessary at that point, the same men and material constituting this station have been moved on and planted elsewhere, as the need required.

The permanent Home at New Orleans is doing a very large and very beneficent work. It has every aid from the military authorities there which can be asked for. Reports submitted.

The "Pension and Claim Agency" at New Orleans is full of work, and recognized by officers and public men as meeting a large and long-existing need.

The agents in charge have proved competent and faithful. Reports submitted.

Arrangements were made for establishing a Home at Hilton Head, (this special relief work hitherto having been performed under great disadvantages,) but the recent removal of heavy forces from the department has deferred for the present the execution of the plan.

At Washington, Alexandria, Annapolis, Convalescent Camp, Camp Parole, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston, the special relief work of the Commission has continued much as heretofore, with these exceptions, viz.:

ALEXANDRIA.

At Alexandria increasing demands have called for increased accommodations.

CAMP PAROLE.

At Camp Parole new portable houses have been put up for the relief agents and for a storehouse. In connection with this station we have also a carpenter's shop, with suitable tools, where many of the invalids find amusement and occupation. A garden is also started here.

PHILADELPHIA.

At Philadelphia the special relief work is under Col. Soert, (formerly relief agent in the Army of the Potomac,) who has been appointed and whose labors are wisely directed by the Philadelphia Branch. Col. Soert, as I understand, is doing a very valuable work—similar in general terms to the work undertaken at Lodge No. 4 in Washington.

BOSTON.

From Boston a report has been received, which is herewith submitted. It shows continued earnestness, wise and efficient action, joined to the most carefully elaborated and perfect system, which has yet been seen in any section of the Commission's work.

PORTLAND, ME.

A Home or Lodge has been established at Portland, Me., where none existed before. It does good service.

PORTSMOUTH, VA.

A new Lodge has also been opened within three months at Portsmouth, Va., with large facilities and corresponding opportunities for usefulness. Report appended.

The "Agency for Fresh Hospital Supply Purchases" has been discontinued. During its continuance, the advantages which had been secured to the Hospitals were evident and real. The Medical Director estimated that ten per cent. of their entire Hospital Fund had been saved to the Hospitals by this Agency.

"CANVASSING AGENTS."

Of Canvassing Agents, there are in the East, as follows:

Dr. Parish, with a wide field.
Dr. Van Ingen, in Northern New York.
Mr. Hadly, in Maine.
Rev. Mr. Tuttle, in New Jersey.
Mr. Rathburn, in Western Pennsylvania.
Mr. Ball, in Massachusetts.
Major Bush, in Western New York.

Besides these, there are some persons, mostly women, employed by the various "Branch Societies," as at Philadelphia and Boston.

The *theory* is, for these agents above named, to receive their appointment and assignment to duty from this office, but their special instructions from the managers of that branch of the Commission whose supervision covers the special field to which the Agent is assigned.

It is believed that the work of these Agents has been productive of good, both in imparting information and correcting prejudices, and also in stimulating supplies.

The reports of Dr. Parish and of Dr. Van Ingen accompany this.

I wish to suggest the importance of adding to the Agents thus engaged, and, perhaps, to systematize the work more fully, by placing the responsibility of its conduct upon one person, who shall also be a lecturer, but whose duty it will be to keep informed of the condition and demands of the field.

Yours respectfully,

F. N. KNAPP,
Associate Secretary.

THE COMMISSION ON THE RED RIVER.

Dr. Crane writes from New Orleans, April 21st:

In my letter to you of the 15th, I furnished you with a general summary of our recent work up to that date. We have subsequently continued our operations upon pretty much the same scale.

Five invoices of stores have been sent forward to Mr. Mitchell since the 15th. They will average about fifty boxes and barrels each.

I proposed forwarding to you by this mail complete lists of these shipments. But copies are not made, or if made, cannot be found this morning. We have now sent to the front most of our stock on hand in this city. I shall reserve the balance, issuing more sparingly, particularly such stores as cannot be replaced, except from the North. Indeed, I think that the necessities resulting from the late engagements have already, for the most part, been supplied either through the ordinary channels, or by the recent efforts of the Commission.

I am happy in being able to inform you, that Dr. Sheldon, Acting Medical Director here, has succeeded finally in obtaining for

the Quartermaster's Department, a few thousand dollars of that hospital tax fund, which now amounts in this Department to more than a quarter of a million of dollars —and of which, I shall have something to say some day.

With this assistance, Dr. S. has been able to make purchases of fruit, milk, stimulants, which will probably obviate the necessity of our purchasing largely hereafter, especially as Dr. Sheldon, has not only engaged heartily in this work, but has exhibited towards the Commission the most liberal and generous feeling.

I hear from the army the most glowing accounts of our good work. Stevens is securing golden opinions; Barnard is splendid, and Edgerly the subject of almost unmeasurable praise. But it is quite invidious to mention a few names when our whole force has worked most untiringly, and every man has tried at least to do his duty.

In my letter of the 15th, I alluded to the interest taken by Mayor Hoyt in our Commission.

I forward to you a copy of a letter written to him on the following day; it may prove of interest as a part of the history of recent events.

Mr. Baker, of the "Varieties," informs me that the result of the *benefit* given me in our behalf on Monday evening last, was much less satisfactory than he expected, but that he has succeeded very well with the subscription list opened at the office of the theatre. He thinks that he will be able on Monday to place in my hands ($2,000) two thousand dollars, as the result of this effort in behalf of the Commission.

I make a requision on Mr. Collins by this mail, for a new and large supply of stores.

When the hurry has passed, I will endeavor to furnish Mr. Knapp with some sort of a general sketch of our work.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
NEW ORLEANS, *April* 10, 1864.

STEPHEN HOYT, *Captain U. S. Army,*
Acting Mayor of New Orleans:

DEAR SIR—I am sorry that I have been unable to comply with your request at an earlier hour. I have the pleasure, however, of now forwarding to you the enclosed list of stores issued from the depot of the U. S. Sanitary Commission in this city, and shipped to Alexandria, for the use of the sick and wounded in our armies during the present campaign.

50 Woolen Shirts,
100 Canton Flannel Shirts,
220 Cotton do.
420 Hospital do.
100 pair Woolen Drawers,
217 pair Canton Fl. Drawers,
200 pair Cotton Drawers,
317 Woolen Socks,
112 Wrappers,
140 pair Slippers,
360 Sheets,
7 kegs Pickles,
13 jars do.
236 barrels Vegetables and Pickles,
15 do. do.
2 bbls. Potatoes,
6 do. Cabbage in curie,
1 bbl. Dried Fruit,
1 box do.
41 cans Fruit,
100 Blankets,
88 Bed Sacks,
105 Pillows,
91 Quilts,
250 Towels,
292 Cushions.
1 bbl. Cotton pieces,
2 bbls. Lint,
2 bbls. Bandages,
1 bbl. Rags,
6 bbls. Lint and Bandages.
25 Flannel Bandages,
20 yds. Oil Silk,
4 yds. Rubber Cloth,
50 Musquito Bars,
10 pieces Musquito Netting,
500 Fans,
20 Sick Feeders (Medicine Cups,)
18 Catheters,
73 Sponges,
2 Bed Pans,
20 Tin Basins,
18 Lanterns,
1 Urinal,
4 Tin Buckets,
1 Water do.
124 Tin Cups,
20 lbs. Nails,
48 bottles Brandy,
5 gallons do.
48 bottles Sherry,
54 do. Whisky.
7½ gallons do.
24 bottles Domestic Wine,
16 Cases Claret,
50 gallons do.
3 bbls. Ale,
36 bottles Bay Rum.
3 bbls. Dried Apples,
32 do. Crackers,
100 lbs. Barley,
200 do. Corn Starch,
98 do. Farina,
500 do. Soft Bread,
15 do. Arrow Root,
48 do. Beefstock,
3 Sugar-cured Hams,
7 boxes Codfish,
1 bbl. Eggs,
48 cans Tomatoes,
150 lbs. Chocolate,
30 do. Cocoa,
864 do. Cond. Milk,
2 kegs Butter,
3 bbls. White Sugar,
1 bbl. Sugar,
72 boxes Lemonade,
30 cases Lemons,
1,000 lbs. Ice,
12 lbs. Soap,
15 do. Chloroform,
12 bottles Chlorate Soda,
15 do. Red Pepper,
62 lbs. Tobacco (chew'g,)
50 do. (smok'g,)
1 gross Pipes,
½ Ream Letter Paper,
650 Sheets do.
1,250 Envelopes,
3 bottles Ink,
1 gross Pens,
2 boxes Reading Matter.
Tin Basins, Towels, Condensed Coffee, and many other articles, of which Mr. Grant has the list.

Additional stores were placed on the Laurel Hill, to be issued on the boat, by one of the agents well acquainted with the hospital transport service, who will return with the wounded she may bring to this city.

Thus much has already been done. More still remains to be done.

The greatest necessities which it is our mission and duty to meet, will probably arise from a want of sufficient hospital clothing, as also from a want of proper hospital food.

Of clothing, we have now on hand a very good stock, blankets and bed-sacks excepted, which we are expecting to receive from a ship now many days due.

Our supplies of hospital food and delicacies have been relatively smaller; sufficient to meet ordinary demands, but quite insufficient for an emergency like the present.

I, therefore, was compelled immediately I heard of the necessities of our hospital service, to make purchases in this city of some lemons, milk, ice, &c., to the amount of seven hundred dollars. Most of these articles have already been sent to the front.

With reference to the future, I intend to repeat my recent purchases, and send forward sanitary supplies on every available boat, so long as the want, suffering and wretchedness, consequent upon the late engagements may continue to claim our aid and succor.

It is impossible for me at the present moment, to say precisely what amount of money it may be necessary to expend. Two thousand dollars may be sufficient—it may

not be; no definite exact statements of either the number or condition of the wounded have as yet reached me.

I have received several communications, the last dated at Alexandria, on the 13th instant, from our agents—six or seven of whom are now either at Alexandria, or with the army beyond. From these despatches I infer that there is little danger of our overdoing for many days to come—the substance of them is, provide everything for 2,500 wounded men.

I shall, so far as possible, make my issues continuously, believing that any efforts we may make, well and judiciously sustained, are much more likely to accomplish the greatest good, than a hundred attempts to do every thing at once. I have made arrangements for sending a ton of ice to the front every day, if possible.

I shall have a large shipment ready for the next boat, which will leave to-morrow or next day—a trusty agent will go with them.

In conclusion, I can only return to you, sir, in behalf of the Commission, my most sincere thanks for the aid which you have so promptly and so generously extended to me.

Yours, very respectfully,
EDWARD A. CRANE,
Agent of the U. S. San. Com., Department of the Gulf.

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Mr. Barnard writes from Alexandria, April 13:

My visit to the army has been attended with much to depress and distress the mind of one anxious for his country's welfare.

Nothing of moment transpired on the way up. We expected, and were somewhat disappointed in not meeting with some opposition from the Bushwackers, at the many dark and woody points that favored an ambush.

We felt prepared for them, as we had a full complement of ready-loaded muskets, besides our guard. There were on board some twenty sutlers and their clerks, all ready to show their markmanship. The monotony was broken by shooting at the numerous alligators that line the banks, many of them being of vast size.

On Monday morning, the hospital boat, Laurel Hill, was ordered to prepare to receive the wounded. I delivered a portion of the sanitary stores taken up to Mr. Stevens, reserving the balance for use on the Laurel Hill. I went on shore, and assisted Mr. Stevens to distribute the supplies to the different hospitals; visited his camp; was shown under what disadvantages he labored in transporting goods to the army.

Mr. Stevens is the right man in the right place. He enjoys the confidence of the officers, and receives every attention, and particularly from the quartermaster. He could afford much more relief had he the supplies necessary.

About ten o'clock, the mournful ambulances, with their living, DYING contents, darkened the road leading to the boat, who were transferred, some in stretchers; others hopping on one foot, sustained by two men; this one carried in the arms of friends; that one hobbling along on two sticks, picked up for the occasion, that answered for crutches. Some walked on board, without help, with mutilated arms, hands, head, neck, nose, ear, mouth, breast and eye.

The temporary berths in the middle of the hall were first filled, then the state rooms, then the floors, afterwards the spaces on the outside of the cabin—the ladies' cabin was occupied for General Remson and another wounded officer—the engine-room was next called into requisition; thus the entire guards, the wood racks, cock-lofts, the spaces under the wheel-houses, and finally the Texas hall and sky-light decks were required to hold the 500 mangled beings who were seeking to escape death's door, by a passage on the Laurel Hill—numbers of whom were without blanket, without coat, without baggage, and almost *sans culottes*, sans every thing, having left them for the benefit of the rebels. Well, here was a field open for prompt action—"*hic opus est, hic labor*"—only three or four surgeons on board, minus surgical instruments, medical chests, or in fact, any appliances to make the wounded comfortable—off coat and at it, was the word. But who can describe the sufferings of these poor soldiers, most of whom had been three days without nourishment or attention, riding over a rough road of 35 miles.

We put to their parched lips cups of milk punch, wine and water, as their case demanded, and oh, what heart-felt thanks would greet our ears: "God bless you," "That is worth $5," "How good and kind you are." When told that their friends at home had furnished these things, tears would well up, their countenance brighten, and expressions of gratitude would fall from their quivering lips. One man said: "Little did I think that when I and wife were donating our mite in Ashtabula, Ohio, that I should be one of the recipients; God bless the folks at home."

While the nurses and surgeons were dressing their wounds, we would administer hot coffee, tea and chocolate, with a Boston cracker, and with what relish would they partake! Some whose teeth were shot out were served with gruels and soups. Pickles and vinegar were freely distributed; a small piece of soap was handed with a clean towel to him who was able to help himself; this man had a pair of drawers, that one a clean shirt to replace their

bloody ones; a sweet smelling sheet was placed under this, a soft pillow or cushion under that; a warm clean blanket spread over their persons appeared to give them comfort, a comb assisted their toilet, a book or paper or pamphlet was given them to read, to beguile the lonesome hour; some asked for pen and paper to address a hasty line home, informing the folks that they were among the living.

Many of the officers, coming on board all worn down and covered with dust, after receiving a generous cup from the Sanitary, would extol in language not to be misunderstood the members and friends of our institution.

Your agent here, Mr. Edward Mitchell, stands head and shoulders over all, possessing the esteem and good will of the army and people. He chafes under a curb bit; he wants to administer free waters to all the thirsty of the army.

Mr. Mitchell writes from the same place five days later:

Yours of 13th and 15th received, also stores in generous quantities and with prompt dispatch, by the Hattie Gilmore, in charge of Mr. Foote, by the Laurel Hill, in charge of Mr. Edgerly, and just now by Chateau, in charge of Philip. I thank you for responding as you have done so promptly to my requests for stores. Edgerly tells me you directed him to return with the Laurel Hill.

Most of the stores will be needed, and will be forwarded as soon as transportation can be procured to the front, with Mr. Foote in charge, to report to Mr. Stevens. Mr. Barnard I sent up on Saturday with all but a scanty supply of stores I retained here, in case of emergency; he will return as soon as possible. Dr. Alexander will tell you how opportune was the arrival there of our little supply and our agents; the army and its officials are grateful indeed for what we have done and are doing. To-day seventy-five men have been given clean underclothes; some came in with no socks, others no shirts, and yet others with no drawers on; the number at the counter threaten to break the bank before we are an hour older. No stores will come amiss here for a week to come at least.

I think that a "Rest" of some kind may become desirable in case of an advance at or beyond Grand Ecore. I would put Edgerly in charge, and let Mr. Foote report to Stevens in the field. Mr. Stevens I have not heard from since he left on the flag of truce expedition.

Mr. Edgerley says:

Agreeable to your instructions, I, on Friday the 15th instant, with stores as per invoice, left New Orleans on the hospital transport Laurel Hill, for Alexandria, at which point we arrived on the morning of the 17th. After delivering to Mr. Reynolds the stores designed for the Home, and reserving a few supplies for the use of the sick and wounded on the Laurel Hill, I, at Mr. Mitchell's request, turned over to him the balance of the stores in my charge. After receiving on board some two hundred and fifty soldiers, sick and wounded, we, the same evening, left Alexandria for this city. Owing to the energy of Dr. McClellan, Surgeon in charge, the Laurel Hill had been well fitted out with bunks, mattresses, rations, cooking arrangements, &c., which, with the addition of Sanitary stores, furnished by the Commission, rendered the condition of patients on board, very comfortable, compared with that of those first brought to this city from the recent field of action. As, has always been the case in every transport filled with sick and wounded, we found an abundant opportunity to lend a helping hand, which we endeavored to do by the way of dressing wounds, preparing cooling drinks, and supplying many of the destitute with comfortable under clothing, for which more than one disabled soldier, with moistened eyes and faltering voice said: "God bless the dear ladies at home, and the Sanitary Commission." Arriving in this city at an early hour this morning, the wounded men were promptly removed to the hospital, and the Laurel Hill, after undergoing a thorough cleansing, will return to Alexandria for another load of our wounded veterans.

THE COMMISSION AND THE SURGEONS.

CAMP NEAR BRANDY STATION, VA.,
April 6th, 1864.

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,
Chief Inspector, Sanitary Commission, Army of the Potomac:

SIR—My attention has been attracted by an article in the New York *Evening Post* of the 1st inst., in which it is stated that certain general officers of this army "do not acknowledge that the Sanitary Commission has rendered any important service" in this army.

I regret much to see such an article published in an influential paper, as it does gross injustice to the Sanitary Commission, which has rendered incalculable service to this army; and any thing done to weaken the hands of its friends, is an injury to the cause of humanity.

I joined the Army of the Potomac at Harrison's Landing in July, 1862, and from that time to the present, have seen food, clothing and delicacies, that could not otherwise be obtained, distributed liberally and impartially to wounded, sick, and enfeebled soldiers; and, to my certain knowledge, much suffering has been alleviated and prevented by the forethought and en-

ergy of the agents of the Sanitary Commission, in having constantly on hand, and accessible, such supplies as were most needed.

I have drawn, from the storehouses of the Commission in the army, supplies for several different regiments and hospitals during that time, and have always found the agents of the Commission in possession of such supplies as were most needed, and ready to distribute them to the suffering, whether officers or enlisted men.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. N. FREEMAN,
Surgeon 106th N. Y. Infantry.

CAMP 14TH REGT., N. J. VOLS.,
1ST BRIG., 3D DIV., 6TH C, A. P.,
April 6th, 1864.

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER:

DEAR SIR—Having had my attention called to an article in the New York *Evening Post* of April 1st, 1864, regarding the efficiency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, I beg to state, that during the marches the past summer, when it has been very difficult, or even impossible, to obtain sanitary stores for the sick in ambulance trains, or even in hospitals, when established, I have never failed to obtain such stores as required by calling upon the Commission. Their supplies, always keeping with the train, were ever at hand. I will also state, that on several occasions during the past winter, I have called upon Mr. S. M. Blazier, Sanitary Agent, 3d Corps, for such articles as were required in our regimental hospital, and could not be obtained elsewhere, and have been promptly supplied.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. S. MARTIN,
Surgeon 14th N. J. V.

138TH REGT., PENNA. VOLS.,
2D BRIG., 3D DIV., 6TH CORPS,
4th Mo. 6th, 1864.

DEAR DOCTOR—Mr. Blazier called upon me this morning, and exhibited an extract from a New York paper, which, in effect, stated that several of the prominent generals of this army have declared the Commission of no "benefit in their departments," &c. What may have been the ground for this declaration, of course I know nothing; but being connected with *the* department in which the Commission is mainly intended to operate—*i. e.*, among sick and wounded—and having witnessed in so many instances its beneficial operations, I most cordially bear my testimony in its favor. Not only have I witnessed these good effects in the field, but also in general hospitals. The sick of my own regiment have frequently been assisted from the stores of the Commission. In an enterprise of the magnitude of the Sanitary Commission, where its operations extend over so wide a field, it is not surprising that errors and irregularities should creep in; but they are of minor importance, when compared with the great good accomplished.

I am, doctor,
Your friend,
CHARLES E. CADY,
Surgeon, 138th Regt. Penn. Vols.

TO DR. LEWIS H. STEINER,
244 F Street, Washington, D. C.

The following, also, will not be out of place here, though not from a Surgeon:

HEADQUARTERS 104TH PENNA. VOLS.,
MORRIS ISLAND., S. C., *Nov.* 15, 1863.

DR. MARSH,
Inspector Sanitary Commission.

SIR—I feel it a duty as well as a pleasure, to make some acknowledgment for the many favors received from your truly benevolent Commission, by the men of my command, during the operations against Charleston. Since our arrival on Morris Island, in August, the men of my command have been on duty almost continuously of the most hazardous character. The supply of vegetables received from the Commissary was totally inadequate to meet the demands. Your Commission has kindly supplied to meet the deficiencies. We have been supplied almost daily with ice, and upon the return of the men from duty in the trenches, as they clustered around the barrel for their cups of ice water, the feeling of all was, God bless the Sanitary Commission. Trusting that you may still go on with your work, and that the men in other Departments of the Army may receive like advantages,

I remain, &c.,
EDWARD L. ROGERS,
Maj. 104th Penna. Vols.,
Commanding Regiment.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

Dr. Steiner reports May 1st:

Since sending in my report for the quarter ending April 1st, the operations of my department have been confined to the distribution of stores, as needs might arise, the organization of corps to meet the emergencies of the spring campaign, and the collection of supplies at local depots for subsequent use. In the bustle and confusion consequent upon preparations for active work throughout this wide field, it will be impossible to furnish a very full report. What I have to give must be more of a sketchy character than in detail. I shall divide it into three portions, corresponding with the three districts composing the department.

1. *The Upper District, Maj. Gen. F. Sigel's command, from Cumberland Eastwards.*—Our operations here were commenced by Charles C. Harris, as stated in my last report, on the 19th of March, and were afterwards somewhat more fully organized under the direction of Col. A. H. Poten, whose previous position as one of General Sigel's officers, gave him special advantages. The fullest privileges we could ask were granted by the General commanding, and it was hoped that the labors of Col. Poten would continue of avail to the Commission, but the health of his father, Maj. Gen. Poten, of Hanover, Germany, requiring him to visit Germany, he resigned his position, and his resignation was accepted on the 16th of April. Col. George A. Muhleck, (formerly Col. 73d Pa. Vol.,) late attached to the 1st Army Corps, as Relief Agent, has been appointed Superintendent. Col. M., is, however, now absent, in consequence of sickness in his family, and Mr. Harris, the Acting Superintendent.

The storehouse established at Harper's Ferry is located in one of the Government buildings, which was placed at our disposal by the Commanding General, and has been kept pretty well supplied with stores from Washington. The officers of this district are exceedingly courteous, and well disposed towards the Commission. Every facility has been extended to make our work effective and useful. Mr. Roberts is the migratory agent along the railroad, and will most likely accompany the expedition of Gen. Sigel to Winchester. Mr. Harris acts as Hospital Visitor in the region around Harper's Ferry, where most of the hospitals are aggregated. These gentlemen have been only assigned to duty within the last few days, but have shown an earnestness which gives me the right to expect good work from them.

It may be well to state that Mrs. Poten, having acted as a volunteer aid at our depot in the Ferry for some weeks, is anxious to continue in that capacity during Col. Poten's absence from the country. If arrangements can be made to retain her services, we shall do so.

2. *The Middle District—Army of the Potomac—Field Relief Corps.*—Some slight changes have been made in this corps since my last report. Charles S. Betts was transferred on the 21st of April to the E. Va. Corps. Selah Howell was appointed Relief Agent on the 19th ultimo, and William B. Marsh on the 26th. Mr. Johnson returned to duty on the 20th, and resumed his position as Superintendent.

In addition to their ordinary duties of visiting regiments, the Relief Agents have been actively engaged in getting wagons and teams ready for the approaching campaign. In this work Captain Harris has been laboring with his usual zeal and fidelity. Five wagons, stout, strong and substantial, with good four-horse teams, and well supplied with assorted supplies, are now with the army on the march. The two superintendants accompany them, and will lend assistance wherever it may be needed in the work. Great care has been taken to make the Sanitary outfit of such a character as will enable the agents to supplement the stores which the Medical Department take with them. The medical stores carried by the army in the present campaign exceed by far those carried in previous campaigns. These are so liberal in the 6th Corps, that its Medical Director, Dr. Holman, declined giving his consent or permission for a Sanitary wagon in his hospital train. He claims that he has stores sufficiently large to supply five thousand men for five days. Should he succeed in providing for the wants of his wounded without extra assistance, he will have acquired a reputation of which any Medical Director might be proud; should he fail, the country will not be likely to overlook his disregard of that assistance which was freely offered him. It is well to add, that I have been informed that all the medical officers of the 3d Division, 6th Corps, have entered an urgent application, approved by Gen. Ricketts, that a Sanitary wagon might accompany them.

The breaking up of our station, familiarly called the "Sheborg," by the Field Relief Corps, at Brandy, closes a four months of good honest work by this Corps,—of work which has brought the comforts of our stores to hundreds and thousands of the sick and suffering; the advantages of a lodge and resting place to over a thousand way-worn and exhausted soldiers and their friends, and a place of resort for all who wished help and assistance, in addition to that furnished by the regular army supplies. There is a historic interest about the old house, which formed the centre of our quarters, that will make it of special attraction hereafter to those who have derived benefit therefrom, as well as to the laborers who have faithfully worked under directions, and with stores issued from it.

With the view of meeting the wants of a large battle, on the 15th of April last I prepared a list of articles presumed to be necessary, on the basis of ten thousand wounded. I suggested that these stores should be held in depot, subject alone to orders for the coming exigency. The Associate Secretary, with great promptness and readiness, forwarded a requisition for the same, and I am pleased to know that we have the materials in the storehouses with which relief can be brought to the needy and suffering. The only problem to be solved is, "How shall transportation be secured to the point where the need exists?" Should the battle take place within reach of car transporta-

tion, we have the assurance, freely given, of the Provost Marshal General of the Army of the Potomac, that a car, or cars, will be placed at our disposal. Should the new base of supplies be on the water, it will be absolutely necessary that we have a boat at our disposal, so as to allow us independent means of transportation. This subject deserves the most careful study and prompt action, if the conclusion be arrived at to procure a boat. It may be well to state, that the indications now justify the opinion that the railroad will be deserted. It is true that some three hundred empty cars have been sent to the front,—these may be intended to bring in to Washington the wounded and prisoners from the first engagement, or to transport a portion of a corps. In any case, it is evident that the intention of the military authorities is not to retain the wounded in the field, but to transport to Washington as speedily as possible.

Notwithstanding the views contained in the preceding paragraph, I have deemed it well that a corps of ready and, to a certain extent, trained workers should be formed, whose duties should be to take charge, so long as supplementary assistance is needed on any field, of the sanitary work. It is proposed that they, under a proper superintendent, should subordinate all their work to the wishes and orders of medical officers, and their duties are expressly stated to be non-interference with, but aid to the latter in affording relief and comfort to the suffering. After due consultation with the Associate Secretary, and an expression of approval, the Hon. Frank B. Fay, of Chelsea, Mass., whose name has almost been the synonyme for honest, conscientious, loving care of our sick and wounded in the hospitals, after all our large battles in the East, was appointed. The Auxiliary Relief Corps will consist of some volunteers, who have engaged to give up the comforts of home and family for this grand work of charity, and twenty-four theological students from Princeton and New York, who have applied for position in the same; believing that it was a duty peculiarly fitting for those who have the holy ministry in view, to administer to the needy, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and smooth the pillow for the dying.

Mr. Fay is here now, and has entered upon the duties of fitting his corps for the field with an alacrity and zeal that demonstrates the fact that he is the man for the place, and his corps show a spirit that satisfies us their enlistment in the cause will redound to the benefit of the Commission and the good of the soldiers. He is meeting them at stated hours during the day, and imparting, from the rich stores of his own personal experience, such instructions as will divest them of the ignorance which marks all new men endeavoring to act as nurses.

With these two corps, the Field Relief Corps—moving *with* the army, the Auxiliary Relief Corps—ready to do work whenever the emergency demands it, and as soon as the field of its operations can be reached, —with a vast accumulation of stores at our depots ready for use,—with the securing of such transportation as may be practicable or attainable,—the Commission may safely say it has left no stone unturned to make the way open for the full performance of its duty. Whatever be the result, the Chief Inspector feels that all efforts will have been made, as far as human judgment can aid, to be prepared for the emergency. God grant us the means of doing all He has put it in our hearts to do for our suffering soldiers!

3. *The Lower District.—Major General B. F. Butler's Command.*—Mr. R. Cecil Nevin has fitted himself for his duties as relief agent, in charge of the department of Norfolk, with commendable alacrity and promptness. His reports—dated April 9, 16, 23 and 30—show an increasing fitness for, and execution of, the duties assigned him. The Norfolk Relief Corps at present consists of three gentlemen.

The amount of stores kept in stock here has been largely increased of late, in order to meet the wants of an army which has been collecting for some time past at or near Yorktown, on the Peninsula. Finding, some two weeks since, that it would be necessary to have a separate organization with this army, I proceeded to organize the Peninsula Relief Corps. This, with various changes and modifications required by the demands of this army, consists at present of ten gentlemen.

Some of these are on the field, and the others are on their way thither. An order, dated May 4, separates this district from my department, and places it under the supervision of Dr. A. McDonald, Sanitary Inspector. I part with it with great regret, as, under much difficulty, a systematic organization of the Norfolk work had been effected during the past winter, and a similar result was being attained for the Peninsula Corps; but the selection of Dr. McDonald as the immediate chief inspector on the ground, will ensure the greatest possible success to the work of the Commission, and will enable him to carry out his own noble and earnest desire to aid the hearts' desires of the people of our great nation.

Issues made by the Field Relief Corps, Army of the Potomac, during the months of January, February and March, 1864:

1,044 Bed Ticks,	462 Cotton Socks, pairs.
130 Cushions,	3,456 Woolen Socks, pairs
1,378 Pillows,	324 bottles Brandy,
2,492 Pillow Cases,	3,609 lbs. Cond'd Milk,
716 Pillow Ticks,	1,206 lbs. Corn Starch,
733 Quilts,	1,296 lbs. Farina,

1,388 Sheets,	697 bottles Jellies & Preserves.
402 Spoons,	100 lbs. Salt Fish,
2,370 Towels,	600 lbs. Sugar.
358 Tin Pans,	486 bot. Foreign Wine,
3,092 Woolen Drawers,	498 bots. Wines & liq'rs,
1,162 Handkerchiefs,	1,864 Needle Books,
1,770 Mittens,	154 lbs. Soap,
3,158 Woolen Shirts,	1,500 Envelopes.
1,125 Slippers, pairs,	

Issues made from storehouse of U. S. Sanitary Commission to troops from Cumberland, Md., eastwards to Monocacy, during months of January, February, and March, 1864:

354 Woolen Shirts,	374 Cotton Drawers,
278 Drawers,	324 " Shirts,
273 Pillows,	142 Slippers,
138 lbs. Chocolate,	286 Woolen Socks,
160 lbs. Corn Starch,	25 lbs. Arrowroot,
240 cans Beef Stock,	344 Needle Cases,
200 lbs. Oatmeal,	100 Tin Plates,
231 lbs. Sugar,	77 Sheets,
220 Bedticks,	74 cans Tomatoes,
116 Blankets,	2,750 Envelopes,
170 Cushions,	108 cans Milk,
299 Pillow Cases,	300 Handkerchiefs,
160 " Ticks,	100 Eye Shades,
529 Towels,	192 bbls. Farina.

Issues made from storehouse at Norfolk, Va., during months of January, February, and March, 1864:

307 Woolen Shirts,	72 bottles Bay Rum,
619 " Drawers,	100 Quilts,
144 bottles Brandy,	69 bottles Cologne,
228 lbs. Farina,	2,376 sheets Note Paper,
88 jars Jelly,	197 cans Beef Stock,
120 galls. Pickles,	300 Tin Cups,
72 bottles Jam. Rum,	386 Sheets,
156 " Wine, for'n,	2,500 Envelopes,
442 lbs. Sugar,	240 cans Milk,
250 Bedticks,	50 Games,
560 Pillow Cases,	12 bottles Spirits Camp'r,
432 Slippers,	100 Tin Basins.
935 Woolen Socks,	

A variety of articles issued in smaller quantities are omitted from the above list.

THE HOSPITALS AND SANITARY STATIONS IN TENNESSEE.

Dr. Read gives the following account of a tour of inspection he has just made:

Soon after my last report I left Nashville for the purpose of visiting the different posts of the Commission in this department, and the hospitals and camps in their vicinity, that I might learn the condition of the soldiers, what Government is doing to supply their wants, the efficiency of the work of the Commission, and what supplies are most needed for present and future use.

I first visited Chattanooga, where I found our agents working up to their full strength. The store-room, in charge of M. D. Bartlett, was clean, and all the goods arranged in order. Mr. Bartlett is kind, courteous, patient, ready to investigate carefully every call for help, and is eminently qualified for his place.

The Hospital Visitor there, Rev. Prof. Hosford, is well received, and is a valuable member of the Commission.

Dr. Hazen, Special Relief Agent of the Commission, has gone home on furlough on account of ill-health.

Mr. Worth, the Transportation Agent, is sick, and will leave as soon as he is able to bear the ride home. M. C. Read, while he has an eye to all parts of the work, was at the time of my visit much occupied with the large hospital gardens. Two hundred acres, including forty acres of vineyard, will soon be planted. This land had to be fenced and plowed. The seed and many garden implements were furnished by the Commission by purchase; but many more implements were obtained by order of Gen. Thomas from the abandoned farms in the vicinity, most of which, within five or six miles, were visited for that purpose.

The land selected is of excellent quality, and we have reason to expect a yield sufficient to supply all the wants of the hospitals in the vicinity, at a time when vegetables cannot be obtained from the North.

The hospitals I found in an improved condition. Many of the sick have been removed, and several hospitals have been broken up since my last visit. The General Field Hospital, in charge of C. E. Byrne, Ass't Surg. U. S. A., on April 5th, contained 555 patients, including the small-pox ward, which had 55. The mortality had been large, 143 deaths in March, including all cases, refugees and negroes, as well as soldiers. Total number of cases treated was 959. There were white soldiers remaining sick the last of February, 467—wounded 71; admitted during March, sick, 400, wounded, 21. Returned to duty, 263; sent to other hospitals, 128; furloughed, 5; discharged, 2; died, 78; remaining sick, 440—wounded, 43.

Some of the principal diseases were as follows: small-pox, 30 cases; varioloid, 19—of these there were 13 deaths; measles, 76, and 29 deaths; inflammation of the lungs 39, and 15 deaths. No scurvy.

U. S. Colored Troops—number treated during March, 105; returned to duty, 19; sent to other hospitals, 2; died, 23; remaining sick, 51; wounded, 4.

Citizen employees treated during the month, 53; returned to duty, 19; sent to other hospitals, 19; died, 6; remaining, 9.

No special wants, except vegetables, in this hospital, the surgeon having supplied many delicacies, and many others were drawn from the Commission.

Preparations are being made to build hospitals on Lookout Mountain. The Officers' Hospital has been removed there. Gen. Thomas advised me to make a garden also on the top of the mountain, as he thought it would be very convenient, and the land could be made to produce well by sending up fifty or a hundred loads of manure. I mention this to show that he was ready to give all necessary assistance.

The troops in the field were in better condition than in January or February. There was less scurvy, which very many surgeons assured me was due to the vege-

tables received from the Commission. I made an effort to obtain the amount of fresh vegetables issued by the Commissaries, and, from the statements received, I judge that but few rations have reached the soldiers for the last six months; not much more, in the aggregate, than was sold to the officers of regiments. Some regiments had not received one full ration of vegetables since the battle of Chickamauga, except what had been furnished by the Commission.

The camps that I visited were well policed and the men well clothed. The 14th U. S. Colored Troops were commanded by Col. Thomas Morgan. The regiment was organized February, 1864, and on March 1st contained 1,000 men, including officers.

Fisher W. Ames is surgeon. I did not see him; but the colonel informed me that the soldiers had all been systematically vaccinated. The camp was beautifully laid out, streets and ditches clean; everything in as good condition as any other regiment. Indeed, the camp was a model of order and neatness, and the black man, as he stood erect, bearing the arms and dressed in the uniform of our country, bore witness to a redeemed manhood.

Upon consultation with Dr. Perin, Medical Director, I telegraphed our agent at Bridgeport to break up camp and bring his tents and all the goods to Chattanooga, which he did; at the same time it was thought best to continue the depot at Stevenson. On my subsequent visit at Stevenson I found everything in most excellent condition. Mr. Wm. A. Sutliffe, the agent, has not been liberally furnished with goods, but had improved his time in attending to their careful distribution, and preparing comfortable quarters, which he had accomplished with no expense and very little help; his accommodations for himself and others show, to great advantage, how much can be done by ingenuity and industry. I visited with him the burial ground, for the purpose of obtaining a list of the dead, but did not succeed to any great extent; if one was kept, it was by the undertaker, whose books were in Huntsville.

I sent to him to obtain the list, which, if obtained, I will forward to you promptly. I found graves, fourteen in number, enclosed by a light railing, two of which were marked as follows: Joseph Littlejohn, Co. H, 18th Ohio, died July 7th, 1862, and Isaac Johnson, Co. D, 61st Ohio, died July 30, 1862. No others were marked. These were undoubtedly with Gen. Mitchell when he made his advance there.

The "Home," in Stevenson, established by Government, is in charge of Capt. Park Wheeler, 149th N. Y. During the return of troops to and from their homes, he has fed about 1,000 per day; lodging about 300 each night, while about 100 have been compelled to sleep in the open air without covering. He has received bed-sacks, comforts, candlesticks, sconces, and other articles of furniture from the Commission, as well as a liberal share of vegetables to feed his men. He wants several other articles, which I informed him would be furnished on a proper order.

Promising Mr. Sutliffe a more liberal supply of stores, I went on to Huntsville. There I found but one General Hospital, in charge of J. H. Early, 17th Iowa, with one assistant, and no lack of cooks and nurses. There were 53 patients. In the same building, mentioned in my last report as the "Calhoun House," in which one of the patients said, "we have a good house, but that is all; nothing good to eat, and hard beds," they now have comfortable beds, the surgeon remarking, "Sanitary has given to us all the comforts, and without them we should be comfortless."

The rooms of the Commission, in charge of Mr. May and Mr. Norton, are well kept, but at the time of my visit, they had few goods, and the calls for help were frequent.

The Western Sanitary Commission have a room next door, and seemed to have a better supply, yet not near enough for the demand.

Returning to Nashville, I visited Murfreesboro, April 18, where are six hospitals, one for small-pox, and one for contrabands, containing 760 patients in all, with the prospect that the number will be increased rather than diminished.

Rev. Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Hogue are doing all that could reasonably be asked of any man; Mr. Kennedy co-operating with the Post Chaplain, with him visiting the hospitals, and often preaching for him on invitation. The hospital garden in Murfreesboro' is much larger than last year, and, under the care of John Harmon, the same gardener, is even in better condition. It is mostly planted. Peas, onions, lettuce, beets, cabbage, &c., were up, and gave promise of an abundant and early harvest.

The hospitals in Nashville remain about the same as at my last report. The number of sick is (April 20) 4,282, in charge of Surgeon Clendennin, Assistant Medical Director of the department. The small-pox hospital is much better for the accommodation of the patients than the old one, and the mortality is less.

There are ten hundred and forty-three vacant beds. There are also four hundred and twenty-seven contrabands in hospital, about one-half of them soldiers.

The soldiers in the field are well clothed, and have no lack of good food, except fresh vegetables. But few of these, compared with the demand, are yet furnished; as proof, I select one letter from many of similar import:

WHITESIDE, TENN., *April* 12, 1864.
Sanitary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.:

Our command is suffering much for want of vegetables. I have made every effort through our commissaries, and through your agents at Bridgeport and Chattanooga, to obtain them, but so far in vain. We report twenty to fifty cases of scurvy from two regiments alone, and those cases are on the increase. If you can send me direct, or through your agents, a few barrels of potatoes and onions, you will much oblige,

Your ob't serv't,

The great obstacle in the way of furnishing a supply is want of transportation, the demand for which is urgent from all points of the army, and we are obtaining perhaps our full share.

The commander at Knoxville telegraphs: "Send vegetables in preference to other commissary stores." Dr. Perin, the faithful Medical Director of the Army of the Cumberland, promises to aid us in procuring transportation for all we can furnish. Dr. Kitto, who has recently inspected the 11th and 15th Army Corps, assures me that the great want is fresh vegetables, although there are but few well marked cases of scurvy.

They are now going forward quite freely; on the 20th, five car loads; on the 21st, seven; and, in addition to the order to give us at least two cars daily, Captain Lyttle has promised to load two for Pulaski, and two for Decatur, which will be distributed by Mrs. Bickerdyke and Mrs. Porter.

Having forwarded the large amount of vegetables now here, and on the way, we must next turn our attention to securing in Chattanooga a large amount of reserved battle stores, and obtain for them, if possible, from that post, transportation. This will be the most difficult part of our work. We cannot procure teams, or feed them, without difficulty, if indeed it can be done at all, independently of the Government officers. And upon consultation with Gen. Webster, Gen. Sherman's chief of staff, to whom we are under many obligations for past favors, I have decided to depend on Government, and to offer to each medical director of divisions one wagon load of such stores as he may select, in addition to all the medical supplies he is permitted to take, to go forward as sanitary stores.

In conclusion, I have the pleasure of assuring you that the work of the Commission is vastly increased, and, so far as I can judge, is prosperous in all departments.

There are several Medical Inspectors in the Department, who report to Dr. Douglas, but Drs. Castleman and Parker have rendered me essential service in obtaining full statements from many brigades of the amount of vegetables issued by the Government.

There is not a General Hospital in the Department that is not visited often by one of our hospital visitors.

The special relief agents are constantly employed, and find, and often relieve, every variety of suffering.

Mothers coming for their children, wives seeking their sick husbands, are helped on their way; soldiers furloughed and discharged, are helped on their way to the homes they are so anxious to reach. Or a little girl comes and asks, "Where is my father?" Agent answers, "Don't know;" she replies, "Well, you ought to, you must have seen him; he wears Co. G., 83d Indiana, on his cap." Poor girl, she was not permitted to go to her father.

The Home in Nashville has been overcrowded, but is admirably managed by Capt. Brayton.

In addition to the one established by Government at Chattanooga, which is only common barracks, one is needed there to receive the sick, discharged, and furloughed soldiers who are sent back from the advance, and compelled to remain there awaiting transportation. I hope to be able to secure some better accommodations for them.

The transportation agents are taxed to their utmost in order to secure transportation where there is so much competition, and where success very much depends upon personal effort, even where the most liberal orders are maintained; but with all the difficulties, vegetables are being sent forward liberally, and I hope by securing a large supply of reserve stores, to be in readiness for impending movements.

Mr. Root, our Hospital Visitor at Nashville, also writes as follows on the condition of the troops encamped near that city, and the contribution of stores amongst them by the Commission in Jan. and Feb. last:

The number of men in these regiments, the number of sick and the character of their diseases, and the condition of the camps, I stated in a former report. The regiments that were stationed here for the time above specified, were from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee; besides detachments from other States. In many of them were regimental hospitals, and in all of them sick soldiers, under treatment by regimental surgeons. From the commanding officers and surgeons of these regiments I obtained information of the wants of their men in camp, and have from time to time furnished them with such sanitary supplies as were required.

From my frequent visits to their camps, I know that the supplies furnished were faithfully applied; and the officers and soldiers in many of them have voluntarily

united in letters of thanks to the Aid Societies and ladies of the Northern States, for the supplies received through their agency. Those letters I have forwarded to you, and many of them are published in a supplement to the *Sanitary Reporter*.

If any one doubts the good that is done through the U. S. Sanitary Commission, let him read the effusions of thankfulness from the warm hearts of our gallant soldiers. Testimony to the same effect could be had from thousands more, if it were desired.

The following articles, from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, were distributed among the soldiers of the regiments around Nashville, during the months of January and February, 1864:

Blankets, 42; comforts, 158; bedticks, 62; pillows, 121; pillow cases, 249; sheets, 212; shirts, 908; drawers, 672 pairs; towels, 588; socks, 636 pairs; slippers, 38 pairs; mittens, 150 pairs; fruit, 351 cans; condensed beef, 134 cans; dried fruit, 5,800 lbs.; groceries, 855 lbs., such as farina, &c.; wine and spirits, 272 bottles; condensed milk, 48 cans; apple butter, 88 gallons; pickles, 512 gallons; kraut, 2,150 gallons; potatoes, 623 bushels, onions, 231 bushels; ale 106 gallons; green apples, 14 bushels; crackers, 612 lbs.; tea, 50 lbs.; sugar, 370 lbs. Besides a variety of smaller articles.

The supplies furnished to State agencies from the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which are considerable, are not included in the above list of articles distributed. The greatest need I found to exist among the regiments from East Tennessee. The men of these regiments have been compelled to carry on a desultory warfare with the rebels, many months before Gen. Burnside reached Knoxville.

They had suffered every thing but the loss of their lives and honor. Their property had been plundered or destroyed, and they had been driven from their homes, to find shelter and a precarious subsistence in the mountains.

When protection came, they rallied under the federal flag, with brave hearts, but in a weak and exhausted bodily condition.

Owing to these circumstances, sickness had been more fatal among them, than among the men of other regiments. In talking upon this subject with Dr. Mitchell, the Surgeon of the 102d Ohio regiment of infantry, whose camp was near them, and who had often visited them when sick, he remarked, that when any of them had a severe attack of disease, they were sure to die, not only for the reason above mentioned, but for another reason which he stated, to this effect: they have no home, no pleasant future in anticipation; the mothers, and sisters, wives and daughters, of many of them, have perished; while those that survive are houseless wanderers, within the rebel lines, from whom no tidings can be had, or pining and starving amidst the desolations of their once happy country.

Such is the picture that continually presents itself before the minds of the East Tennessee soldiers; and when disease seizes upon them, it is no wonder that it should prove fatal, aggravated, as it must be, by sickness of heart that no medicine can cure.

The U. S. Sanitary Commission has done for them what it could, and I have the satisfaction of knowing it has done very much to relieve their sufferings.

HOMES AND LODGES.

NASHVILLE.

During the four weeks ending April 30, 4,750 soldiers have been admitted from twenty-four different States; 4,867 lodgings have been furnished, and 18,525 meals. Transportation has been furnished for 4,314; and pay, to the amount of $8,328.04, has been drawn and paid over.

MEMPHIS.

At the Lodge at Memphis there have been admitted, during the four weeks ending May 1st, 1,444 men, from twenty different States; 4,389 meals were furnished, and 1,169 lodgings. Transportation was procured for 117.

CAMP NELSON.

The following is a statement of the operations of the Home at this Post, for the month of April, 1864.

The uncertain destiny of Camp Nelson for the past month, seems to have suspended its usual operations, and also to have directed trade and travellers from the Camp.

However, Camp Nelson is not now the scene of the gigantic business which it once was, consequently, we have to report a smaller number of inmates of the Home for the month of April.

Number of lodgings for the month of April, 2,484. Number of meals for the month of April, 7,455.

On the 18th of April, Chaplain Henderson, of the 112th Illinois Regiment, advised me that (14) fourteen barrels of potatoes, (2) two kegs of pickles, and one box of sundries, were at Paris, Ky., for his regiment, and he desired me to procure them for distribution, as Sanitary stores. I immediately telegraphed for the stores, to be sent on to me at Camp Nelson.

This evening, Chaplain Pell, of the 12th Regiment of Cavalry, who, on the 28th of last December, left Knoxville, with me for Louisville, came to camp and informed me that for four months he had been lecturing in behalf of his special object, viz.: to raise Sanitary stores for his regiment, and his success had attained (16) sixteen boxes, and (5) five barrels, which he expected by Government transportation the same evening. Finding that his regiment had gone two days previous for Loudon, Tenn, he very wisely turned over the shipment to the depot here, taking my receipt for it.

The sterling philanthropy of Chaplain Pell is highly commendable. For four months he had labored assiduously to collect these stores for his regiment, and, doubtless, looked forward with much pleasure to the time when he should dispense them to the greedy men under his care.

Ascertaining that transportation could not be procured, he expressed himself equally recompensed by the assurance that the soldier in his sickness and need, whether from Michigan or Maine, or any other loyal State, might be comforted by them. This is the doctrine of justice and true benevolence.

I had thought that the good people who labor incessantly, and contribute so abundantly and generously for the soldier, had learned long ago the great impropriety and wastefulness positively incurred, by shipping stores to regiments. While at Murfreesboro', last summer, I received over a hundred boxes, for individuals and companies in the Army of the Cumberland, three-fourths of which were worthless, ere the owner could be found. So, in the shipment from Illinois for the 112th Regiment, the boxes regarded by the Chaplain as most valuable, were not worth a half dollar, while some of the barrels were damaged by long delays and careless handling. These consequences, so far as my experience extends, almost invariably attach to private shipments to State troops.

In conclusion, I will state the Home at Camp Nelson, is the Post Church. We have regular services morning and evening, every Lord's day, and a prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Several protracted meetings have already been held. Chaplains who remain in camp with their comrades, are tendered the use of our large dining hall, which is frequently filled with soldiers, employees and visitors, both white and otherwise.

Dr. Woods, Chaplain U. S. A., and Rev. L. A. Payson, Hospital Visitor U. S. Sanitary Commission, are our regular preachers; while a stranger generally appears every week to aid them.

The Home is now thoroughly whitewashed, and the sodding, &c., will be completed this week.

WASHINGTON.

The following is some of the labor performed in this office for the quarter ending April 1st: Amount of money collected upon four hundred and sixty-six cases, $58,493.21; amount of money forwarded upon eighty drafts, $8,321.20; number of men lodged, 4,203; number of meals furnished, 20,915; number of letters written, 1,116; number of letters received, 233.

ANNAPOLIS.

The Rev. Mr. Hennis reports:

I have the honor to report that the Home in this city, established by your direction for the benefit of nurses, mothers, wives, and relatives of soldiers located in this vicinity, more especially for the sick and wounded in our hospitals, is in successful operation, meeting with general favor from those who visit it and know personally of its operations. During the latter part of January and the month of February, we had but very few visitors; as the exchange of prisoners was suspended, our hospitals, which are principally for the reception of paroled prisoners, being nearly cleared, and consequently there was little to call the relatives of soldiers to this point. During the month of March there has been a large increase, and at present the Home is well filled; and I cannot convey to you any adequate conception of the gratitude manifested by those who share the benefits of the Home, and believe that it is exerting a good influence, in recommending the Commission to the favorable consideration of those who have known but little of its operations in detail.

The number of meals and lodgings afforded since the 1st of January to the 1st of April, are as follows: Meals, 1,221; lodgings, 408; besides a large number of meals which have been given to the male relatives of our soldiers, and others who have visited by invitation. I would suggest that permission be asked to purchase stores from the commissary of this post for the Home, on the same conditions as they are afforded to officers, which would be quite a saving to the Commission.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

A meeting of the Associate members of the United States Sanitary Commission was held a fortnight ago in the rooms of the Executive Committee, No. 76 Kingston Street, to listen to a report concerning the Special Relief Service of the Commission in this city, for the year ending March 31, 1864. H. B. Rogers, Esq., presided.

John B. Blatchford, Esq., on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Boston Associates, presented a report concerning the Special Relief of the Commission for the year ending March 31, 1864.

"The service was established April 1, 1863. Rooms located at No. 76 Kingston Street were furnished for the purpose. The establishment as now equipped consists of an office, reception room, sleeping rooms, containing 60 beds; a hospital ward, with 12 beds, with convenient wash rooms, bath rooms, and water closet; capacious closets for hospital stores, clothing, and linen, and a room appropriated for the use of the wives, mothers, and sisters of sick soldiers, who often accompany them on their return to their homes.

"The first applicant for aid was received April 7, 1863. Since then 11,190 soldiers have received aid, as classified in the following statement:

"Secured transportation at reduced (government) rate to 4,990; furnished transportation paid by the Commission to 193; secured transportation by U. S. Quartermaster for 781; furnished carriage within the city, for sick and feeble, for 1,627; special attendance to their homes in charge of messengers to 85; furnished lodging, 6,305; number of meals, 16,351—to 7,945; clothing —number of garments, 677—to 355; aid in arranging papers, 147; aid in obtaining pay, 190; medical advice, 400; wounds dressed, 279; procured commutation of rations, 75; loaned money, 51; gave money, 85; sent to hospital, 100; referred to local relief associations, 42; secured re-enlistment, 20; amount of back pay collected, $20,559 16; furnished undertaker's services, 5; deaths, 2.

"In addition to the above, a considerable amount of aid has been rendered to resident, discharged, disabled soldiers and their families; permanent and remunerative employment having, in some instances, been obtained for disabled men, who, otherwise, would remain a helpless burden upon our charities.

"Of the whole number thus aided, Maine has furnished 4,086; New Hampshire 768; Vermont 121; Massachusetts 4,422, Connecticut 51; Rhode Island 50; New York 140; New Jersey 2; Pennsylvania 34; Maryland 3; District of Columbia 34; Ohio 86; Kentucky 13; Michigan 7; Indiana 7; Illinois 15; Kansas 7; Iowa 10; Minnesota 24; Wisconsin 17; Missouri 5; Tennessee 2; Louisiana 4; Alabama 2; Virginia 2; Georgia 2: Delaware, California, North Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, and rebel army, 1 each; U. S. regulars, 550; U. S. Navy, 102; veteran reserve corps, 608; corps d'Afrique, 18.

"The Hospital Car service between New York and Boston, established under the direction of the Executive Committee of the Commission in this city, Nov. 2, 1864, has been attended with satisfactory results, 4,805 soldiers having been transported.

"The total expenditure for the year, as shown by the Treasurer's account, has been $15,478.30, classified as follows: Rent and taxes, $640.49; furnishing repairs, $2,613.42; salaries, $2,148.61; traveling expenses, $212.57; advertising, $242.67; stationery and printing, $512.69; postage, $14; telegrams, $6.64; hospital stores, $238.59; superintendent's expense account, $6,877.07; miscellaneous, $240.67; hospital car transportation, $1,730.88.

"The average cost per man of the service for the first quarter, ending June 30, 1863, was $2.35; for the second quarter, ending September 30, 1863, $1.28; for the third quarter, ending December 31, 1863; $1.15; and for the fourth quarter, ending March 31, 1864, $1.08.

"The necessary funds for the support of the 'Special Relief Service' of the Commission in this city are drawn from the Treasurer of the Boston Branch, J. Huntington Wolcott, Esq. $10,000—being a portion of the proceeds of the Fair held in this city in December last, in aid of the Sanitary Commission—was donated for the support of this service, by the N. E. Woman's Auxiliary Association. The amount in the treasury, April 1, 1864, was $6,863.32, which, at the current rate of expenditures for the last quarter, will suffice to meet the expenses of the next four months.

"The rooms are open at all hours of the day and night, and provision is made at the principal railway stations to meet such soldiers as may require aid upon the arrival of trains, and convey them to the rooms or to connecting trains.

"It is the policy of the Commission to facilitate the return of all soldiers to their homes or camps with the least possible delay, but during their delay they enjoy the comforts of a home, with cheerful surroundings, and ever ready hands to minister all needed aid and comfort. Their frequent and earnest expressions of pleasure and gratitude evince their appreciation of the beneficent services thus rendered them."

To illustrate the great variety of cases in which the Commission has been of service to the soldier, Mr. Blatchford read several extracts from the record book, in which is recorded the name of every man who is in any way aided by the Commission, together with a sketch of the particular kind of help given him. These records were deeply interesting, and gave copious proofs of the efficiency of the organization.

MARKED ARTICLES.

Some of the marks which are fastened on the blankets, shirts, &c., sent to the Sanitary Commission for the soldiers, show the thought and feeling at home. Thus—on a home-spun blanket, worn, but washed as clean as snow, was pinned a bit of paper, which said: "This blanket was carried by Milly Aldrich, (who is ninety-three years old,) down hill and up hill, one and a half miles, to be given to some soldier."

On a bed quilt was pinned a card, saying: "My son is in the army. Whoever is made warm by this quilt, which I have worked on for six days and almost all of six nights, let him remember his own mother's love."

On another blanket was this: "This blanket was used by a soldier in the war of 1812—it may keep some soldier warm in this war against traitors."

On a pillow was written: "This pillow belonged to my little boy, who died resting on it; it is a precious treasure to me, but I give it for the soldiers."

On a pair of woolen socks was written: "These stockings were knit by a little girl five years old, and she is going to knit some more, for mother says it will help some poor soldier."

On a box of beautiful lint was this mark: "Made in a sick room, where the sunlight has not entered for nine years, but where God has entered, and where two sons have bid their mother good-bye, as they have gone out to the war."

On a bundle containing bandages was written: "This is a poor gift, but it is all I had. I have given my husband and my boy, and only wish I had more to give, but I haven't."

On some eye-shades were marked: "Made by one who is blind. Oh, how I long to see the dear old flag that you are all fighting under."—*Sanitary Reporter.*

NOTES ON NURSING.

WHAT FOOD?

I will mention one or two of the most common errors among women in charge of sick respecting sick diet. One is the belief that beef tea is the most nutritive of all articles. Now, just try and boil down a pound of beef into beef tea, evaporate your beef tea, and see what is left of your beef. You will find that there is barely a teaspoonful of solid nourishment to half a pint of water in beef tea;—nevertheless there is a certain reparative quality in it, we do not know what, as there is in tea; but it may safely be given in almost any inflamatory disease, and is as little to be depended upon with the healthy or convalescent where much nourishment is required. Again, it is an ever ready saw that an egg is equivalent to a pound of meat—whereas it is not at all so. Also, it is seldom noticed with how many patients, particularly of nervous or bilious temperament, eggs disagree. All puddings made with eggs, are distasteful to them in consequence. An egg, whipped up with wine, is often the only form in which they can take this kind of nourishment. Again, if the patient has attained to eating meat, it is supposed that to give him meat is the only thing needful for his recovery; whereas scorbutic sores have been actually known to appear among sick persons living in the midst of plenty in England, which could be traced to no other source than this, viz.: that the nurse, depending on meat alone, had allowed the patient to be without vegetables for a considerable time, these latter being so badly cooked that he always left them untouched. Arrowroot is another grand dependence of the nurse. As a vehicle for wine, and a restorative quickly prepared, it is all very well. But it is nothing but starch and water. Flour is both more nutritive, and less liable to ferment, and is preferable wherever it can be used.

Again, milk and the preparations from milk, are a most important article of food for the sick. Butter is the lightest kind of animal fat, and though it wants the sugar and some of the other elements which there are in milk, yet it is most valuable both in itself and in enabling the patient to eat more bread. Flour, oats, groats, barley, and their kind, are, as we have already said, preferable in all their preparations to all the preparations of arrowroot, sago, tapioca, and their kind. Cream, in many long chronic diseases, is quite irreplaceable by any other article whatever. It seems to act in the same manner as beef tea, and to most it is much easier of digestion than milk. In fact, it soldom disagrees. Cheese is not usually digestible by the sick, but it is pure nourishment for repairing waste; and I have seen sick, and not a few either, whose craving for cheese showed how much it was needed by them.

In the diseases produced by bad food, such as scorbutic dysentery and diarrhea, the patient's stomach often craves for and digests things, some of which certainly would be laid down in no dietary that ever was invented for sick, and especially not for such sick. These are fruit, pickles, jams, gingerbread, fat of ham or bacon, suet, cheese, butter, milk. These cases I have seen not by ones, nor by tens, but by hundreds. And the patient's stomach was right and the book was wrong. The articles craved for, in these cases, might have been principally arranged under the two heads of fat and vegetable acids.

There is often a marked difference between men and women in this matter of sick feeling. Women's digestion is generally slower.

But, if fresh milk is so valuable a food for the sick, the least change or sourness in it, makes it of all articles, perhaps, the most injurious; diarrhea is a common result of fresh milk allowed to become at all sour. The nurse, therefore, ought to exercise her utmost care in this. In large institutions for the sick, even the poorest, the utmost care is exercised. Wenham Lake ice is used for this express purpose every summer, while the private patient, perhaps, never tastes a drop of milk that is not sour, all through the hot weather, so little does the private nurse understand the necessity of such care. Yet, if you consider that the only drop of real nourishment in your patient's tea is the drop of milk, and how much almost all English patients depend upon their tea, you will see the great importance of not depriving your patient of this drop of milk. Buttermilk, a totally different thing, is often very useful, especially in fevers.

In laying down rules of diet, by the amounts of "solid nutriment" in different kinds of food, it is constantly lost sight of what the patient requires to repair his waste, what he can take and what he can't. You cannot diet a patient from a book, you cannot make up the human body as you would make up a prescription—so many parts "carboniferous," so many parts "nitrogenous" will constitute a perfect diet for the patient. The nurse's observation here will materially assist the doctor—the patient's "fancies" will materially assist the nurse. For instance, sugar is one of the most nutritive of all articles, being pure carbon, and is particularly recommended in some books. But the vast majority of all patients in England, young and old, male and female, rich and poor, hospital and private, dislike sweet things—and while I have never known a person take to sweets when he was ill who disliked them when he was well. I have known many fond of them when in health, who in sickness would leave off anything sweet, even to sugar in tea—sweet puddings, sweet drinks, are their aversion; the furred tongue almost always likes what is sharp or pungent. Scorbutic patients are an exception, they often crave for sweetmeats and jams.

Jelly is another article of diet in great favor with nurses and friends of the sick; even if it could be eaten solid, it would not nourish, but it is simply the height of folly to take ½ oz. of gelatine and make it into a certain bulk by dissolving it in water, and then to give it to the sick, as if the mere bulk represented nourishment. It is now known that jelly does not nourish, that it has a tendency to produce diarrhea—and to trust it to repair the waste of a diseased constitution, is simply to starve the sick under the guise of feeding them. If one hundred spoonfuls of jelly were given in the course of the day, you would have given one spoonful of gelatine, which spoonful has no nutritive power whatever.

And, nevertheless, gelatine contains a large

quantity of nitrogen, which is one of the most powerful elements in nutrition; on the other hand, beef tea may be chosen as an illustration of great nutrient power in sickness, co-existing with a very small amount of solid nitrogenous matter.

Dr. Christison says that "every one will be struck with the readiness with which" certain classes of "patients will often take diluted meat juice or beef tea repeatedly, when they refuse all other kinds of food." This is particularly remarkable in "cases of gastric fever, in which," he says, "little or nothing else besides beef tea or diluted meat juice" has been taken for weeks or even months; "and yet a pint of beef tea contains scarcely ½ oz. of any thing but water." The result is so striking, that he asks what is its mode of action? "Not simply nutrient—½ oz. of the most nutritive material cannot nearly replace the daily wear and tear of the tissues in any circumstances. Possibly," he says, "it belongs to a new denomination of remedies."

It has been observed, that a small quantity of beef tea, added to other articles of nutrition, augments their power out of all proportion to the additional amount of solid matter.

The reason why jelly should be innutritious and beef tea nutritious to the sick, is a secret yet undiscovered; but it clearly shows that careful observation of the sick is the only clue to the best dietary.

Chemistry has as yet afforded little insight into the dieting of sick. All that chemistry can tell us is the amount of "carboniferous" or "nitrogenous" elements discoverable in different dietetic articles. It has given us lists of dietetic substances, arranged in the order of their richness in one or other of these principles; but that is all. In the great majority of cases, the stomach of the patient is guided by other principles of selection than merely the amount of carbon or nitrogen in the diet. No doubt, in this as in other things, nature has very definite rules for her guidance; but these rules can only be ascertained by the most careful observation at the bedside. She there teaches us that living chemistry, the chemistry of reparation, is something different from the chemistry of the laboratory. Organic chemistry is useful, as all knowledge is, when we come face to face with nature; but it by no means follows that we should learn in the laboratory any one of the reparative processes going on in disease.

Again, the nutritive power of milk, and of the preparations from milk, is very much undervalued; there is nearly as much nourishment in half a pint of milk as there is in a quarter of a pound of meat. But this is not the whole question or nearly the whole. The main question is what the patient's stomach can assimilate or derive nourishment from, and of this the patient's stomach is the sole judge. Chemistry cannot tell this. The patient's stomach must be its own chemist. The diet which will keep the healthy man healthy, will kill the sick one. The same beef which is the most nutritive of all meat, and which nourishes the healthy man, is the least nourishing of all food to the sick man, whose half-dead stomach can *assimilate* no part of it, that is, make no food out of it. On a diet of beef tea healthy men, on the other hand, speedily lose their strength.—*Miss Nightingale.*

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